

(b) What measures have been adopted by the Government of India for solving the problem of unemployment of such labourers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) I would invite attention to my answer to question No. 206. As stated therein the available information shows that 5,058 workers have been affected by the total or partial closure of mills.

(b) State Governments are closely watching the situation and are taking all possible measures for solving the problem. For example, the Government of Bombay have opened a new Industrial Training Workshop at Kurla-Kirol for providing facilities for training in alternative occupations. In Uttar Pradesh workers affected by closures are taken back on the reopening of the concerns. Preference is also given to retrenched workers at the time of subsequent recruitment in the same establishments.

Jarilla Kapas

***225. Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government are aware that *Jarilla Kapas* was sold below floor price in Madhya Pradesh in December, 1951 and April 1952?

(b) Have Government taken any steps to improve the economic condition of the cotton markets?

(c) Have Government any intention to raise the floor rate of *Jarilla Kapas*?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir. No floor prices have been fixed for *kapas*.

(b) Yes, Sir. Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to part (d) of the Unstarred Question No. 2 of 1952. Since then the export quota has been increased from 252,000 bales to 302,000 bales.

(c) Does not arise as no floor price is fixed for *kapas*.

TEA PRICES

***226. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what and how many associations of Tea Planters approached the Government in deputation following the recent slump in tea prices?

(b) Have Government taken any steps about:

(i) Stabilization of tea prices; and

(ii) Loans and advances to planters from banks?

(c) Was any meeting held with the planters on any of those or other questions?

(d) If so, what decision, if any, was arrived at at the meeting?

(e) Was any assurance given to the industry on those or any other question involving labour?

(f) If any assurance involving labour was given, were the Ministry of Labour and relevant labour organisations consulted?

(g) If so, what was their opinion?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) The following associations have waited in deputation on Government:—

(1) Prime Minister—Darjeeling branch of the Indian Tea Association.

(2) Minister for Commerce and Industry—(i) Assam Tea Planters' Association and (ii) Assam Bengal Indian Tea Planters' Association.

(b) (i) The matter is receiving the consideration of Government.

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India has decided to extend re-discounting facilities to the scheduled and cooperative banks on their loans to tea estates. The Industrial Finance Corporation are also prepared to consider individual applications for loans from tea estates under the management of Joint Stock Companies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No final decision has yet been reached.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

FOREIGN AID

26. Shri U. C. Patnaik: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what are the amounts of foreign aid received from foreign countries during the last financial year?

(b) What are the amounts of foreign aid promised by foreign countries to India during the current financial year?

(c) What are the terms or conditions attached to each item of the said foreign aid?