

on North and South Avenues indicating the total number of flats of each type as also accommodation in each type of flat;

(b) the cost per square foot of the plinth area;

(c) the cost of a single flat of A, B and C type on North Avenue;

(d) the amount of furniture supplied and cost of the same in each type of flat; and

(e) how the rent per month has been calculated both on account of house and furniture?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** A statement containing the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 22]

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** A gist of the answer may be given.

**Sardar Lal Singh:** Is the Government aware that the bungalows on the Ferozeshah Road, Queensway and Windsor Place have got double the accommodation of that available on the North and South Avenues, and yet the charges are much lower?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I could not say whether the accommodation is exactly double; but it is correct that the accommodation in bungalows is greater than that of the flats. The rent also is lower on account of the lower cost of construction.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think these questions may be discussed with the hon. Minister privately. They are not so important in the House.

**Sardar Lal Singh:** Would the Government consider the desirability of pooling all these houses and revising the.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Let us not go into all these details. It is more or less an argument as to how it has to be adjusted. Hon. Members may take up these matters also with the House Committee of Parliament. That would be the proper procedure.

#### TEA PLANTATION LABOUR FROM ORISSA

\*322. **Shri Sanganna:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of labourers of scheduled tribes and castes that have been recruited in and forwarded from the Koraput and Phulbani Districts (Orissa) by the Tea District Labour Association, India, during each year of the last five years?

(b) Is it a fact that these labourers are landless and compelled to leave their ancestral hearths and homes under pecuniary circumstances?

(c) What safeguards and precautions have been made and taken and what kind of agreement is subsisting between the Tea District Labour Association and these labourers for the general welfare and upkeep of the labourers at the Tea District Labour Association Colonies?

(d) Is there any guarantee that these labourers are paid reasonable wages regularly with reference to the present high cost of living?

(e) Is there any provision for imparting education to the children of these labourers working in the Tea District Labour Association Colonies?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Separate figures of recruitment in respect of scheduled tribes and castes are not available. A statement showing the recruitment made by the Tea Districts Labour Association from the Orissa State for the last five years is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 23]

(b) Government have no precise information as to the circumstances in which labourers volunteer for work in the Assam tea estates. The majority of them must be landless labourers though some possess some lands which may not be sufficient to support them.

(c) The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932, under which recruitment is made, does not regulate the welfare of assisted emigrants once they reach their places of employment. Under the Act, it is, however, obligatory on the employing interests to supply an information-sheet to each of the assisted emigrants before his recruitment, giving information regarding the conditions of life and work in the Assam tea estates. This information sheet serves as an agreement between the employer and the labourer and the rules made under the Act provide that supply of incorrect or inadequate information shall be punishable. Adequate arrangements for transport, and in transit, are statutorily required. Welfare measures in plantations will now be regulated by the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, which will be brought into force shortly.

(d) Minimum wage rates for plantation workers in Assam have been fixed by the State Government under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. It is obligatory on employers to pay wages at those or higher rates.

(e) Under section 14 of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, it is obligatory on every employer to provide educational facilities for the children of the plantation labourers aged between six and twelve, if their number exceeds twenty-five in any plantation. Even otherwise progressive tea estates have at least one primary school in each estate financed either by the Government or by the estate, or jointly by both. The Government of Assam propose to extend gradually the Assam Primary Education Act, 1947, to plantations.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### CONFERENCE OF STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS

**\*295. Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of State Development Commissioners was held in Delhi in the beginning of May, 1952;

(b) if so, what was the subject-matter and scope of discussion; and

(c) whether any decision was taken?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Conference was convened in order to promote a concerted approach to the problems of Community Projects, establish uniform and expeditious procedures and also acquaint the State Governments' representatives personally with the work being done in Etawah, Nilokheri and Faridabad. The subjects discussed at the meetings of the Conference covered various fields of activity, e.g., agriculture, irrigation, education, health, rural arts, crafts and industries etc. as well as procedural matters relating to administration and finance.

(c) The main decision taken was that work on the community projects should commence by the 1st October, 1952, sufficiently in time for the Rabi season.

**SHRI SUDHIR GHOSH (DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON)**

**\*296. Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Sudhir Ghosh, Administrator, Faridabad Community Project, has gone to Washington to appear before the members of the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee;

(b) if so, in what connection; and

(c) whether he has gone there in his individual capacity or as a spokesman of the Government of India?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) to (c). Shri Sudhir Ghosh resigned from Government service and proceeded to the U.S.A. in his individual capacity. His visit is not sponsored in any way by the Government of India.

A press note to this effect was issued on the 18th April, 1952.

## COTTON (EXPORT)

**\*304. Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton bales exported from India during the period from May 1951 to May 1952; and

(b) the countries to which cotton was exported during the same period?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) 1,10,025 bales from 1st May 1951 to 30th April, 1952.

(b) U. K., Hongkong, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Japan, U. S. A., West Germany, Canada.

## SMALL LOANS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

**\*305. Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme for small loans for displaced persons has been stopped; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

## SMALL LOANS (AMOUNT)

**\*306. Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the amount given to displaced persons in the form of small loans during the years 1951 and 1952?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** Figures for the calendar years 1951 and 1952 are not readily available. During the year 1951-52 a sum of Rs. 3.82 crores was given by the State Governments as loans to displaced persons. The budget provision for 1952-53 is Rs. 3.36 crores.