

(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.