

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to extend the scope of the discussions to East Bengal also?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** No.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May we know the reason?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Because the properties in West and East Pakistan have got quite different characteristics, and the proposal which we have made to Pakistan relates only to the properties in Western Pakistan to which the Evacuee Property law of 1950 applies.

#### GOVERNMENT HOUSING FACTORY

\*133. **Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agreement has been reached between the Government of India and Baisakha Singh Ltd., in regard to the Government Housing Factory?

(b) If so, what are the terms of the Agreement?

(c) What is the programme of production in the Housing Factory and what are the articles which are expected to be produced in it?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) to (c). I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the Press Note issued on the 15th September 1952 a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 29]. Since the Agreement though finalised has not yet formally been signed, I am not in a position to release its terms.

**Prof. Agarwal:** May I know whether this Baisakha Singh Limited is a private limited company or a public limited company?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** It is a private limited company.

**Prof. Agarwal:** What is the subscribed capital of this company?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I would like to have notice.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know if Government will take into consideration or has taken into consideration during these negotiations the value of the land that will be leased to this company for the factory?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Certainly, Government has taken that into consideration.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Are Government in a position to lay on the Table those two reports of the Committees that investigated into the original pre-fabricated housing factory before it was taken over by Baisakha Singh Ltd.?

**Mr. Speaker:** He refers to the Mulgaonkar Committee report, I think.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Government have to consider before they can make any statement positively about it.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Is it a fact that one of the senior retired officials of the Government of India is connected with Baisakha Singh Limited?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I have no information.

#### INDIANS IMPRISONED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

\*134. **Shri Jajware:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many Indians are imprisoned and detained in foreign States for political reasons and what steps Government have taken to get them released?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when available.

#### REORGANISATION OF C.P.W.D.

\*135. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state which of the recommendations and suggestions of the Kasturbhai Committee with regard to the re-organisation and other aspects of the Central Public Works Department have been accepted and given effect to by Government?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of Government.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know when this Committee was appointed and when they submitted their report?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** This Committee was appointed in November 1951 and the report was submitted in August 1952.

**Shri S. N. Das:** How long will Government take to come to decisions on this?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Not more than a month.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know if in the mean time a mass retrenchment has already started in the C.P.W.D.?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I think the hon. Member has already sent a representation on that point, if I mistake not, and the matter is receiving consideration.

**Shri S. N. Das:** What are the important recommendations of this Committee, may I know?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think they should better be seen in the Report itself rather than that time should be taken here in reading out long things.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether any of these recommendations have already been put into force by the Ministry?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I have already stated that the recommendations are being examined. Effect has not yet been given to any of those recommendations. But, as I have already stated, it will be possible to give effect to certain recommendations in about a month's time.

#### DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR INDUSTRIES

\*136. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided at the first meeting of the Central Advisory Council of Industries in May 1952 that Development Councils would be set up in respect of seven industries;

(b) if so, whether the Development Councils in respect of these seven industries have been set up; and

(c) the work done by these Development Councils so far?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know the names of the industries in respect of which Central Development Councils have been formed, and if sugar is one of them?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The answer to (b) is not yet.

#### PRICES ADVISORY BOARD

\*137. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Prices Advisory Board was constituted to advise Government on the fixation of prices and on other matters connected with the Supply and Prices of Goods Act;

(b) whether any meeting of the Board has been held after the first meeting held on 31st October, 1950; and

(c) if not, whether Government have reviewed the policy of fixing prices for the goods listed in the Schedule to the Act?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The general principles decided upon in the first meeting of the Prices Advisory Board held on the 31st October 1950 have been followed while fixing specific maximum prices of various scheduled goods. These principles have not been reviewed so far.

#### JUTE TRADE

\*138. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state, in view of the developing crisis in jute trade with U.K. and U.S.A. as per his statement of the 19th August, 1952 in Calcutta, what step Government have taken or propose to take to create jute market in other countries, specially U.S.S.R.?

(b) What quantity of finished jute goods has been sold to countries other than U.K. and U.S.A. during this year?

(c) What is the view of the Indian Jute Mills Association about opening of jute trade with countries other than U.K. and U.S.A., specially with U.S.S.R.?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) It is presumed that the Member is referring to the export of jute goods and not raw jute since the latter is not allowed to be exported. On this assumption the reply is that the Government have reduced the export duty on jute goods and are also allowing exports of jute goods freely. USSR can buy as much jute goods as she likes. I may, however, add that USSR does not usually purchase these goods from India as she has her own jute industry.