

SILK CLOTH

*268. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of silk cloth in India for the latest year for which figures are available; and

(b) whether this production was enough to meet the demands of Indian consumers for the year and if not, how much had to be imported from outside?

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

(a) Actual figures of annual production of silk cloth are not available. It is estimated that the average annual production during the last three years was about 16 million yards.

(b) Imports of silk fabrics are not allowed during July-December 1952; but prior to this, some quantity was allowed to be imported. The figures for 1952 are not yet available.

INDIAN SETTLERS FOR NORTH BORNEO

*269. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given by Dr. B. V. Keskar to starred question No. 176 asked on the 22nd February, 1952 regarding settling of Indians in North Borneo and state what progress, if any, has been made in the correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of North Borneo on the question of emigration of Indian settlers to North Borneo?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Detailed information on the four points mentioned in reply to part (c) of the question referred to by the hon. Member has been received from the Government of North Borneo and the whole matter is now under careful consideration. If a satisfactory agreement is reached on the terms and conditions of migration it will be necessary for Government to approach Parliament to approve the issue of the necessary notification under the Indian Emigration Act to permit the emigration to Borneo for engaging on agricultural work.

CESS DUTY ON SALT

*270. **Shri E. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Samuna Das Sri Nivas Ltd., of Calcutta have charged a cess duty of annas two per maund of salt from the nominees in the eastern districts of U.P.; and

(b) if so, whether it is with the consent of Government?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). No cess or duty of any kind is levied on sea salt in the eastern districts of U. P. Cess is however levied by Government from the producer and collected before the salt is removed from the factory concerned. There has never been any question of Government permitting a private party to levy or collect cess on salt. It is a fact that salt despatched to Calcutta by sea, mostly from Saurashtra, Kutch and Tuticorin ports, was treated as an export and exempted from cess before 1st February 1952, but cess is being charged on such salt also since that date. The company referred to have as a consequence thereof presumably proportionately increased the price of their salt supplied to U. P.

RELIEF TO COIR INDUSTRY

*271. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what relief was given by the Central Government for the coir industry in Travancore-Cochin; and

(b) what step have Government taken on the report submitted by an officer of the Government of India on the coir industry in that State?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) I would refer the Member to the reply given to starred question No. 152 on the 10th November, 1952.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 10.]

SWISS EXPEDITION TO EVEREST

*272. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what help the Government of India have given to the Swiss expedition to Everest?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The expedition was exempted from the payment of customs duty on the equipment imported by them into India on condition that it was re-exported within a specified period.

NILOKHERI COLONY

*273. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether it is a fact that recently the population of Nilokheri has considerably dwindled down, and a large

number of families are leaving the colony?

(b) Is it a fact that due to the above reason, some of the workshop machines are lying idle?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative what are the reasons therefor?

(d) What was the population of the Nilokheri Colony as on the 1st November in 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No census for the population was taken in the month of November, 1949, 1950, 1951. Nor has a census been taken during the current month. The census of the population at Nilokheri was however, taken in August, 1950, March, 1951 and January, 1952 when the population was found to be 6131, 6287 and 6315 respectively.

MIGRATION FROM EAST PAKISTAN

*274. Shri Beli Ram Das: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of migrants from and to East Pakistan for the last six months, month by month?

(b) What are the reasons for East Bengal displaced persons to come out from that country and again almost equal numbers of migrants to go back to East Pakistan?

(c) What step do Government propose to take to stop such to and fro movement of Bengalee displaced persons?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 11.]

(b) The reasons presumably are:—

- (i) a feeling of insecurity,
- (ii) deteriorating economic conditions, and

(iii) apprehension at the introduction of the passport system and fear that this might lead to restriction of travel.

(c) The introduction of the passport system has greatly reduced the movement between East Pakistan and West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. At the same time, under the passport system,

there is considerable freedom of travel, though there are checks. Steps have been taken by the Governments of India and Pakistan to reassure the minorities that the passport system is not intended to restrict freedom of movement. The Central Minority Ministers of both countries have conducted a joint tour for the purpose of removing misconceptions in regard to the passport system.

HOUSES FOR WORKERS IN JUTE INDUSTRY

*275. Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the housing problem of the workers in the Jute Industry;

(b) whether the Government of India have any scheme for construction of houses in this area either directly or in collaboration with the Indian Jute Mills Association; and

(c) whether there was any discussion between the Government of India and the Indian Jute Mills Association on this subject?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes: Government are aware that the worker in the jute industry are in no way better off than the workers in other industries.

(b) The Government have plans for the construction of industrial houses in accordance with the Subsidised Housing Scheme. State Governments, employers and industrial co-operatives are expected, under this scheme, to build houses for the workers and Government are confident that the workers in the Jute industry will take advantage of the Scheme.

(c) No.

JUTE PRODUCTS

*276. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the steps taken to improve the quality of jute articles?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the answer given by me on the 27th May 1952 to part (c) of his starred question No. 200.

PRICE OF PETROL IN ASSAM

*277. Shri Beli Ram Das: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state what is the