

27th September, 1954, and he had made several tours in the border areas including Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. Other parts are inaccessible at present because of winter. During the last two months, he has been able to study the problems involved and to help in the preparation of development and welfare schemes and their sanction and co-ordination at the Centre. It will, however, be some time before a comprehensive report will be ready on the subject. It is natural, therefore, that concrete results of co-ordination etc. may not become apparent until the next working season, that is, the summer of 1955.

D. V. C.

***1543. Shri V. B. Gandhi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the Damodar Valley Corporation has taken up the matter of scaling down the rates of Messrs. Hind-Patel Ltd. in at least important items in view of Paragraph 4 of Part II of the Agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Yes, Sir. The D.V.C. are conducting negotiations with the contractors.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA

***1544. Shri Tulsidas:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the volume and value of exports to and imports from Russia in January—September 1954, itemwise; and

(b) whether the volume of trade is satisfactory when considered in the light of the Indo-Russian Trade Agreement?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Two statements showing our imports from and exports to the U.S.S.R. during January—September, 1954, and the corresponding period of 1953, when

there was no trade agreement between the two countries, are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 32.] The statements will show that there has been some improvement in the total trade between the two countries. There is considerable scope for further increase in trade as contacts develop.

N. E. F. A.

***1545. Shri Bimlāprosad Chaliha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no supplies could be dropped in the NEFA Area recently for want of aviation spirit; and

(b) if so, the arrangements made to meet the needs of the people in the absence of aerial supply?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) and (b). A temporary shortage of aviation spirit did cause some interruption in the air-dropping programme, but that did not affect the supply position of our outposts as these had sufficient rations to last upto the end of December.

INQUIRY INTO THE COST OF TYRES

***1546. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 311 on the 31st August, 1954 and state when the report of the Tariff Commission on the cost of tyres manufactured in this country is likely to be submitted to Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Sometime next year.

VISAS

***1547. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani nationals who have come to India on short term visas so far during 1954; and