

of passports being forged and the persons being compelled to return to India. New kinds of social problems are being raised by the influx of large numbers of persons in the United Kingdom. Having given careful consideration to all these aspects, Government have come to the conclusion that it would not be desirable to permit large numbers of such illiterate or semi-literate persons to proceed to the United Kingdom.

While the restrictions on the grant of passports of such persons will continue, Government have given instructions that the policy should be liberalised as far as possible and where there are *bona fide* reasons for a visit to the United Kingdom passports facilities should be granted.

#### Mysore Iron and Steel Works

\*738. **Shri Madiah Gowda**: Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 741 on the 5th April, 1956 and state whether the details of the expansion scheme of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works have now been finalised?

**The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah)**: Expansion schemes costing nearly Rs. 6 crores have been included in the Second Five Year Plan. Of these two items had already been sanctioned as part of the First Plan. The rest are under examination.

#### Steering Committee

\*739. **Ch. Raghuraj Singh**: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any progress has been made since March, 1955 by the two Steering Committees, set up by the Government of India and Pakistan to devise means to solve long pending issues?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan)**: Steps have been taken by the Governments of India and Pakistan to deal with the outstanding issues between them in accordance with the agreed decisions taken by the Steering Committees in their meetings held in February and March, 1955. The Ministries and the Ministers of the Government of India concerned have been in touch with their opposite numbers in Pakistan in regard to various items assigned to them by the Steering Committees. The Indian High Commission in Karachi has been asked to take up with the Government of Pakistan items to be dealt with at the diplomatic level. The Steering Committees also discussed some of the items at their Delhi meeting on the 11th and 12th March, 1955 and reached agreement on a few of them.

In the absence of any further meeting of the Steering Committees after March, 1955, it has not been possible to review the progress of the negotiations carried on at various levels.

#### Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

\*740. **Shri Dhushiya**: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. have been granted loans by the Government to build hostels at Delhi and other places?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar)**: A loan of Rs. 50,000/- was given to the Y.W.C.A. in April 1953. No loan has been given to the Y.M.C.A. so far.

#### Textile Exports

\*745. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh** ;  
**Shri R. P. Garg** ;

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decline in India's textile exports since the beginning of the current financial year;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the causes thereof?

**The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of cotton piecegoods during April to June, 1956, was about 184 million yards as compared to 192 million yards for the corresponding months in 1955.

(c) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given by me to part (c) of the starred question No. 2049 asked by him and Shri Bishwa Nath Roy in the Lok Sabha on the 9th May, 1956.

#### Automatic Looms

\*747. **Dr. J. N. Parekh**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number and location of automatic looms likely to be installed in the Cotton Textile Mills during the next two years?

**The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo)**: It is expected that 14,600 automatic looms intended for export promotion will be installed during this period. No assessment can now be made of the installation of automatic looms by way of normal replacement of ordinary looms. Government are not in a position to give any idea of the location of looms under the export promotion scheme at present.