

(b) what are the recommendations of the Sub-Committee; and

(c) what action Government have taken on the report?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The report is before the Standing Committee of the Handloom-Board for their consideration in the first instance.

Pondicherry Municipality

*398. { Shri Kodiyam:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) when the Budget of the Pondicherry Municipality was forwarded to the Government of Pondicherry for the year commencing January, 1957; and

(b) when it was approved by the Government Council of Pondicherry?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) and (b). The budget was submitted on August 28, 1956, but on account of the failure of Pondicherry Municipality to make provision for certain obligatory expenses and other allied matter, the budget was not sanctioned till 21st March 1957.

अफगानिस्तान के साथ व्यापार

*३९९. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस वर्ष अफगानिस्तान से आने वाले सूखे भेवों का आयात लगभग तीन करोड़ रुपये से घट कर एक करोड़ रुपये रह गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या भारत अफगानिस्तान के बीच व्यापार के बढ़ाने के लिये अफगानिस्तान से एक शिफ्टमंडल भारत आया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री कानुनगो) : (क) जी, हां। अप्रैल से दिसम्बर, १९५६ तक अफगानिस्तान से सूखे भेवों का आयात ११० लाख रुपये का हुआ है, जब कि १९५५ की इसी अवधि में १९६ लाख रुपये का हुआ था।

(ख) जी, हां।

N.E.F.A.

*400. Shri Gohain: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how many tribal houses and Government buildings were destroyed by the last storm which occurred in the last week of April, 1957, in North East Frontier Agency;

(b) whether any measures have been taken to rehabilitate and give relief to the affected people; and

(c) the number of lives lost and the compensation given therefor?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) to (c). According to information so far available, 58 Government buildings have collapsed and 92 damaged as a result of the storm during the last week of April.

Regarding tribal houses, while complete information is not yet available, preliminary reports indicate that six tribal houses have collapsed at Chowkham.

The only report so far received regarding loss of life is of one Government boatman.

Local authorities have already been instructed to go ahead with reconstruction and rehabilitation measures.

Detailed reports are still awaited.

Textile Wage Board

*401. Shri Anthony Pillai: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state whether the Trade Union Organisations were consulted before the nomination of

members representing workers to the Textile Wages Board were made?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The two members representing the workers were appointed in consultation with the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the All India Organisation of workers having the largest membership in the textile industry.

Low Income Group Housing Scheme

*403. { **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:**
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in 1956-57 under the Low Income-Group Housing Scheme; and

(b) the names of the States which have utilised the entire grants allotted for this purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) In 1956-57, the Central Government allocated Rs. 6.78 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for projects under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme. The amount actually drawn by the State Governments and Union Territories was Rs. 6.33 crores. According to information received from the State Governments, 3930 houses were completed and 12751 were under construction by the 31st March, 1956. By the 30th April, 1957, 13046 houses were completed, and 15946 were under construction.

(b) Assam, Orissa, the Punjab (PEPSU) and the Union Territories of Pondicherry and Tripura have utilised the entire amount allocated.

All India Handloom Board

*404. **Shri Jinachandran:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report submitted by the Committee on Credit Facilities

for the Handloom Industry constituted in 1955 has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to help the weavers outside the co-operative fold?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Committee did not go into the question of help to weavers outside the co-operative fold.

Electric Motors, Starters and Switches

*405. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated requirements of electric motors, starters and switches in view of the programmes for rural electrification for agricultural purposes;

(b) what percentage of this can be met by indigenous production; and

(c) the reasons for the change in import policy for these items for the period January-June 1957 as compared to the period for July-December, 1956?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The total estimated demand by 1960-61 for electric motors, motor starters and Ironclad switch and switch fuses has been assessed at 10 lakh H.P., 1.20 lakh Nos. and 6 lakh Nos. per year respectively with an establishment rated capacity 20 to 25% higher than these figures.

(b) The demands are rising rapidly but it is our endeavour to see that most of our demand will be met by indigenous production.

(c) Considerations of foreign exchange and the capacity of the indigenous industry have been the reasons for changes in import policy for these items.