

(a) whether Indo-Moroccan trade agreement is being renewed; and

(b) if so, what more items are being included to develop trade and commerce between the two countries?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a). An Indo-Moroccan Trade Agreement valid for one year was signed at Tangiers on the 3rd August, 1962.

(b). A list of the important items provided for exchange under the Agreement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 95].

Teachers in Plantations

1043. Shri Nataraja Pillai: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Employees Provident Fund has excluded teachers employed in the schools in plantations in South India from participating in the Employees Provident Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, why?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a). Yes.

(b). Under the existing provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, and the Scheme framed thereunder, teachers in plantations are not eligible for membership of the Employees' Provident Fund. However, it is proposed to amend the Act to bring the teachers within its purview. Meanwhile they can have the benefit of provident fund on a Voluntary basis if the employers and the majority of the teachers and other employees in any plantation school agree.

Indians in U.K.

1044. Shri Sadhu Ram: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) number of Indians in U.K. as on the 1st July, 1962;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these Indians residing in U.K. are working in different trades or factories and are also a substantial source of foreign exchange earnings;

(c) if so, what quantum of foreign exchange is annually earned by these Indians and the amount actually remitted by them to India;

(d) what would be the effect of U.K. Commonwealth Immigrations Act on the future outflow of such persons to U.K.; and

(e) whether Government are taking any steps to persuade British Government to liberalise their policy on this subject?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The estimated total population of Indians in the U.K. as on the 1st July, 1962 is about 1,20,000.

(b). The majority of the adult men are employed in different trades and factories etc. They earn the standard wages applicable in the U.K. and also overtime wages, and generally manage to save a fair amount for the purpose of remittance home.

(c). No information is available regarding the quantum of foreign exchange annually earned by them. The remittances made by Indians in U.K. to India during the years 1960 and 1961 are estimated to be Rs. 129 lakhs and Rs. 143 lakhs respectively.

(d). The effect of the U.K. Commonwealth Immigrants' Act will be to reduce the rate of outflow of Indians desiring to emigrate to the U.K.

(e). Government do not contemplate taking any steps in this regard.