

submitted a memorandum to Government complaining of discrimination by the Afghan Government against Indian traders; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply and Commerce and Consumer Industries (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is being enquired into.

#### Import of Machinery

**1738. Shri R. P. Garg:** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether India intends to purchase machinery from Japan, Britain, the U.S.A., Germany and other countries during the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) whether a delegation representing leading Japanese machinery manufacturers and officials of machines industry organization visited India during the month of August, 1956 in this connection; and

(c) the extent to which Japan will meet our requirements so far as machinery is concerned?

**The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no precise information regarding any such visit.

(c) It is not possible to make any estimate.

#### Extradition of Bhupat

**1739. Shri R. P. Garg:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any, and if so, what further steps, Government have taken to persuade Pakistan Government to extradite the notorious dacoit Bhupat, who is wanted by Indian Police for murders and for dacoities in India?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Repeated efforts were made in 1953 to secure the return of Bhupat to India. The Government of Pakistan, however, stated that they could not help because there was no extradition treaty between India and Pakistan. In the circumstances, the matter was not pursued further.

#### Silk Industry

**1740. Shri R. P. Garg:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps to stabilise the prices of raw silk in the country and ensure a fair return to the silk worm rearers; and

(b) the total number of rearers in the country during 1955-56?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Government have already taken steps to stabilise the prices of raw silk in the country by the canalisation of imports of raw silk through governmental channels. The Central Silk Board is also preparing a scheme for fixation of floor prices for raw silk in India, primarily with a view to further stabilising the prices of cocoons and raw silk, and ensuring a fair return to those engaged in the sericulture industry.

(b) No reliable data is available. It may, however, be mentioned that it is roughly estimated to be about 5 million persons.

#### Salt

**1741. Shri R. P. Garg:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the rate of purchase per maund of rock salt from West Pakistan and the price at which it is distributed to authorized distributors and the public respectively in PEPSU?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** The Government of India will pay about Rs. 1/4/1 per maund for rock salt at the Indian border. It will be sold at Rs. 10/2/1.5 per maund at the border to the State-Government-Nominees. All State Governments (including the Government of PEPSU) have been requested to ensure that the retail price of this salt does not exceed annas eight per seer in any case.

#### Precision Tool Factory

**1742. Shri R. P. Garg:** Will the Minister of Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made towards the establishment of another precision tool factory in the country;

(b) the total capital likely to be invested on the factory;

(c) the country, if any, which has offered to help in setting up of the factory; and

(d) the time by which such a factory is expected to come into production?

**The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah):** (a) Government have no specific proposals to set up a precision tool factory at present.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.