

recently reviewed by the Taxation Enquiry Commission. While the Commission agreed that a percentage basis should be adopted for the levy, they were not in favour of a specific rate, *viz.*, 20% on an all-India basis. They were of opinion that in order to enable a certain degree of differentiation the percentage may be graded on a very broad basis.

Employment for Displaced Persons

894. Shri Biren Dutt : Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the schemes for opening *bidi* factories to provide employment to the old displaced persons of Tripura are being implemented;

(b) if so, how many such factories have been started; and

(c) the number of displaced persons who have been given employment under the *bidi* scheme ?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) to (c). Yes, 41 *bidi* making units have been sanctioned and are in different stages of implementation. These schemes are expected to provide employment to 615 displaced persons when fully implemented.

Labour Inspectors

895. Shri Chattopadhyaya : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay in filling up the vacancies of Labour inspectors at Kothagudium and Secunderabad; and

(b) who is looking after their work ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai) : (a) The delay in filling up the vacancies is due mainly to the time taken for completing the formalities, namely verification of antecedents and character, medical examination etc, in respect of candidates recommended by the Union Public Service Commission.

(b) One of the candidates recommended by the Commission has since been posted to Kothagudium. The Conciliation Officer (Central), Secunderabad, is looking after the work relating to the office of Labour Inspector at Secunderabad.

Cardamom

896. Shri Velayudhan : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state :

(a) whether cardamom is now bought under a pool auction just like tea in the Cochin market; and

(b) if so, who has been given the right to auction the goods ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries and Commerce and Consumer Industries (Shri Morarji Desai) : (a) and (b). Government have issued no instructions for the holding of such auctions. The trade have presumably arrived at some arrangement privately with Messrs Carritt Moran & Co. Ltd. who are reported to be conducting these auctions since 17th October, 1956. Exports of cardamom continues to be free from export restrictions.

Housing for Low-Income Groups

897. Shri Gidwani : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received schemes from the State Governments for the allotment of money for housing for low-income groups in their States under the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, how much money has been allotted to them for the purpose ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) :

(a) No. specific Schemes in regard to low-income groups housing are received from State Governments; they merely indicate their requirements of funds and allocations are made by the Centre. Requirements of funds for the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme for the Second Five Year Plan have already been intimated by most of the State Governments.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 66].

Indian Embassy in U.S.A.

898. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the Indian Ambassador's Office, Washington in 1955-56 ;

(b) whether there has been any increase in the expenditure of that year as compared to the previous year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?