

Central Silk Board

*143. **Shri KeshavaIengar:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board propose to convene a conference of Secretaries of State Governments and the Heads of the respective departments of Sericulture; and

(b) if so, when, where and for what purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to hold the conference in December 1956 at Calcutta with a view to discuss the question of expeditious utilisation of the grants given to the State Governments for the development of the Sericulture Industry.

Shri KeshavaIengar: May I know if the Government is aware of the enormously huge lapses every year of the amounts granted and paid to the various States for the sanctioned schemes? If so, were there any investigations into the poor progress of the schemes and what were the results?

Shri Satish Chandra: The responsibility for development of cottage industries mainly rests with the State Governments. As and when demands are received, grants are made by the Board and the Central Government. Attempt is being made to persuade the State Governments to spend those amounts.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Some of the plans sent by the State Governments are unduly held up in the Centre with the result that the money allotted by the Centre is not being spent in time. May I know whether it is correct?

Shri Satish Chandra: That is not correct, because even if some grants are sanctioned later, they are usually revalidated for expenditure during the next year.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know why this conference was held at Calcutta particularly when most of the members came from other parts of the country?

Shri Satish Chandra: The conference is held at different places on different occasions.

Woollen Fabrics

*144. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices and other details for the purchase of woollen fabrics by the Trade Organisation of the Soviet Union from India have been finalised; and

(b) if so, the quantity?

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

(b) 2,50,000 yards.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the quantity mentioned by him is going to be purchased this year or whether it is going to be spread over several years?

Shri Karmarkar: I hope it is to be purchased immediately.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: How does the price of this deal compare with other exports to other countries?

Shri Karmarkar: I think it is a fair price.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: There is no question of a fair price. I would like to know how the prices compare.

Shri Karmarkar: What I mean by 'fair price' is this, namely, that the price is not disadvantageous but advantageous to the country and to the sellers of the stuff. What are the differences in the prices at which different exporters are selling to different foreign importers—that is much too difficult for me to say because we do not deal with them on a State trading basis.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the Government of the USSR has expressed its willingness to have contracts for other years also?

Shri Karmarkar: It is more than what I can say at the moment but we do hope that they will purchase cloth in the future also.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I request that I may be permitted to put Q. No. 141? You were pleased to call my name but it was not in the printed list.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may await his turn.

Central Minimum Wages Advisory Board

*145. { **Shri Bahadur Singh:**
Shri K. S. Rao:
Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain recommendations were made by the "Central Minimum

Wages Advisory Board" regarding the fixation of hours of work and rest intervals for agricultural labour; and

(b) whether the recommendations made by the Board have been accepted?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The consensus of opinion at the third meeting of the Board was that there need not be any exemption in the matter of fixation of hours of work and rest intervals in the case of agricultural employment. The recommendation has been brought to the notice of State Governments for their consideration.

Shri Bahadur Singh: What were the recommendations of the Board regarding the registration of the employees of agricultural labour and what is the limit of holding for that purpose?

Shri Abid Ali: Workers employed in farms below ten acres need not be registered. That was the recommendation.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What decision has been taken regarding the non-implementation of the Minimum Wages Act in many of the States?

Shri Abid Ali: This is administered by the State Governments. If any particular incident is brought to our notice, we shall communicate to them.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether the State Governments have accepted these recommendations?

Shri Abid Ali: This was communicated to them only recently.

Shri Dhuriya: May I know whether these recommendations are applicable to Government farms only or to all farms.

Shri Abid Ali: All farms.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: What are the recommendations that have been made?

Shri Abid Ali: There need not be any exemption in the matter of fixation of hours of work—that was the recommendation made.

Pakistan Foreign Minister's Statement

*146. {
 Shri D.C. Sharma :
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :
 Shri Gidwani :
 Pandit D.N. Tiwary :
 Shri Shree Narayan Das :
 Shri Raghunath Singh :
 Shri Gadlingana Gowd :
 Shri Debendra Nath Sarma :
 Shri Bansal :
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra :
 Shri R.P. Garg :
 Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : }

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan protesting against the allegations made against India by the Pakistan Foreign Minister in a statement on the 4th October, 1956; and

(b) if so, whether any reply has so far been received from Pakistan to that letter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir. A message pointing out the inaccuracies in Pakistan Foreign Minister's statement and stressing the facts was sent to the Pakistan Prime Minister on 5th October.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what efforts have been made by the External Affairs Ministry:

(a) to counter-act the propaganda in India and

(b) to counter-act the propaganda which Pakistan is carrying on in West Asia in particular and in other countries of the world in general?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I think that, if the hon. Member carefully reads the news published in the newspapers, he will realise that the efforts of Pakistan had been remarkably unsuccessful.

प्रश्न १० ना० तिबारी : बूक पाकिस्तान बराबर हम लोगों के खिलाफ हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ प्रचार करता रहता है, यहाँ तक कि जिनोसाइट (जातिद्रोही) का कार्य (आरोप) हम पर लगाता है, तो जब पाकिस्तान में ऐसी हालत है कि हिन्दुओं का वहाँ रहना