

the price of cotton laying down new level of floor and ceiling prices; and

(b) if so, with what result?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) and (b). The question is under consideration of the Government, as usual before the beginning of each Cotton year and the announcement will be made shortly.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know whether the Central Cotton Advisory Committee has made any recommendation with regard to this matter, and if so, the nature of its recommendations?

**Shri Kanungo:** The recommendation is to raise the floor price by Rs. 50.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know the present floor price?

**Shri Kanungo:** Rs. 495.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Indo-Egyptian Trade

\*624. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the trade with Egypt is developing since the introduction of the Rupee account between the two countries?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** The Honourable Member has perhaps in mind the Special Rupee Account opened by the State Trading Corporation on 25-4-57 to facilitate the flow of trade between India and Egypt. This Account will be used for import of cotton and cement from Egypt and the sale proceeds will be utilised in promoting exports of jute goods, tea, pepper, tobacco, electric fans, diesel engines, centrifugal pumps, dry batteries and other engineering chemical and pharmaceutical products to Egypt. It is yet too early to assess the effect of this arrangement on our trade with Egypt.

##### Refugee Fishermen

\*629. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhary:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1048 on the 2nd April, 1956, and state whether there is any scheme for setting some of the 50,000 refugee fishermen who had come from East Pakistan?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** There are no statistics to show that there are as many as 50,000 displaced fishermen from East Pakistan to be settled. The number is probably much less. Schemes have been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of over 300 families of displaced fishermen in the States of Bihar, Orissa, and Saurashtra (now Bombay). Some families of fishermen were moved to Bihar and Orissa, but those sent to the latter State deserted. No families have come forward for settlement in Saurashtra.

##### Handloom Manufacturers' Society, Cannanore

\*635. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Handloom Manufacturers' Society in Cannanore regarding the special features and difficulties of the industry in Malabar run on private factory basis, and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to help this special group in the handloom sector in Kerala?

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

(b) Government is awaiting the recommendations of Standing Committee of the All-India Handloom Board. Meanwhile financial assistance will be available for such of those factories as are willing to be converted into Industrial Co-opera-