

### Soil Testing Laboratory

\*638. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether the Indian Tea Planters Association, Jalpaiguri has represented for the establishment of a Soil Testing Laboratory in the Dooars, and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The Association have been informed that the Soil Testing Laboratory at Tocklai would serve the needs of tea planters at Dooars as well and that for any additional assistance, they should approach the Government of West Bengal who had already been allotted one laboratory for establishment in that State

### Demands of Railway Staff

\*643. **Shri Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railway staff of the Head Office of M/s Mcleod and Company Ltd, the Managing Agent of B D R Light Railway etc have submitted an industrial dispute in the shape of a charter of demands before the Regional Labour Commissioner Calcutta, and

(b) when the said charter of demands was placed and the steps taken by the Regional Labour Commissioner, Calcutta in regard to it?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Workers organisation represented certain grievances on behalf of the workmen employed in the Railway Department of the Head of M/s Mcleod and Co, Ltd

(b) The Conciliation Officer (Central), Calcutta, held discussion on many occasions with the parties concerned separately as the administration did not recognise the union. While the administration at one stage agreed to concede some of the demands, they have since refused to

give their assurance in writing. The negotiations are understood to have just broken down.

### Export of Processed Cashew Kernels

\*644. **Shri Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that processed cashew kernels exported from India to UK are being re-exported to Australia and sold at prices lower than those obtained for kernels directly exported from India to Australia?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** No, Sir

### Leather Tanning Industry

\*650 **Shri Sonawane:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) the measures Government have taken or propose to take during 1957-58 to preserve and to promote the cottage industry of leather tanning in the country, and

(b) whether Government afford all facilities to the leather tanning industry on the same scale as are being given to the handloom industry?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) The cottage industry of leather tanning is a scheduled industry under the Khadi & Village Industries Commission Act, 1956. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission which is responsible for the development of the industry, is continuing during 1957-58 the previous programme which includes the establishment of village model tanneries, training cum production centres and marketing depots for the sale of products of this industry.

(b) Adequate assistance is extended to the cottage leather tanning industry though the pattern of assistance is not the same as that applicable to the handloom industry.