

and U.S.A., to have an agreement to pool their resources and efforts to carry on some developmental work in Nepal;

(b) if so, the nature of work that is proposed to be undertaken; and

(c) the financial aspect of the question?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) to (c). There is no proposal for the general pooling of resources, as suggested. In regard, however, to construction of some roads in Nepal, there is a proposal to have an agreement between the Governments of India, Nepal and the United States of America. The Government of India's contribution in this matter has not yet been finalised. Whatever this may be, it will have to come out of the total economic aid of rupees ten crores which has already been promised to Nepal. No additional contribution is contemplated.

Silk

*1651. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether large stock of silk produced by the Co-operative Societies in Andhra Pradesh is lying unsold; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and the steps taken to give relief to the Co-operative Societies?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The reference presumably is to silk handloom fabrics. If so, Government have not received any reports of large accumulated stocks.

(b) Does not arise.

Aid for Industrial Development

1428. **Shri Sugandhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to Demand No. 2, Industrial Development Grants to Private Parties on page 13 of 'Demands for Grants for the year 1957-

58', Vol. I and lay a statement showing the names of parties and the amount paid to each of them by the Government of India as grants in the Karnatak Districts of Bijapur, Dharwar and Belgaum during the years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): No grants were paid to private parties in the Districts of Bijapur, Dharwar and Belgaum during these years.

Self Sufficiency in Essential Medical Equipment

1429. **Shri D. S. Raju:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which India is self-sufficient in essential medical equipment such as surgical equipment, X-Ray films and photographic material; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The entire requirements of X-ray film and other photographic materials are met by imports. Certain types of surgical equipment are being manufactured on a small scale but the country has still to depend to a large extent on imports.

(b) The National Industrial Development Corporation are examining a scheme to set up a factory for the manufacture of cine and X-Ray films and photographic paper in collaboration with a foreign firm.

A Panel set up by Government has examined the possibilities of manufacturing Surgical Appliances in India and has made certain recommendations. These are under examination.

Skilled Workers

1431. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is dearth of skilled and highly skilled workers in the country; and