

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

297. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any preference is being given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of filling up of administrative and clerical vacancies in the Central and attached offices, of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, and

(b) whether Government have issued any instructions to the Village and Khadi Industries Commission in this connection?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

Development of Cottage Industries in U.P.

298. **Shri Radhamohan Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are contemplating to undertake any survey in the deficit areas of Eastern U.P. for establishing or assisting the Cottage Industries with a view to raise the living standard of the people there and

(b) if so, when the survey will be undertaken?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have ordered a survey of all districts in the State in order to assess the industrial possibilities of each district. The deficit areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh will be covered by the survey which will explore the possibilities of establishing cottage industries to improve the economic condition of the people

The Central Silk Board will shortly be conducting a survey of the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh for assessing the possibilities of introducing sericulture.

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh ordered the district-wise survey in November, 1956. Appointment of staff has taken place for the purpose of this survey. The Central Silk Board is awaiting certain preliminary information about the climatic conditions of the districts before undertaking its proposed survey

Export of Shellac

299. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is losing foreign markets for Shellac to other countries especially Thailand?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): Comparative figures of exports of shellac by India and Thailand are not available for all destinations. But in the case of U.S.A., one of our principal markets, Thailand's crude lac is known to have made a considerable headway, as the floor wax industry in U.S.A., which is the main consumer of lac, is reported to have evolved a new product called refined bleached shellac which can only be made from crude lac and not from shellac

There has been a fall in the value of shellac exported during 1956-57 as compared to the previous year, but the quantity exported has been on the increase. Thailand's shellac does not offer serious competition to the Indian product. A statement showing exports of Indian shellac to various countries during the years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix II, annexure No 10]

Employees Provident Fund Organisation

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniformity of scales of pay and allowances and service conditions of