

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 UP 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 USA, one of our principal markets, Thailand's crude lac is known to have made a considerable headway, as the floor wax industry in USA, 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

the members of the staff of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation throughout India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes; while the Central Office and the Delhi Regional Office follow Central Scales, the Regional offices follow State Scales

(b) The Employees Provident Fund Scheme visualised decentralisation of the Employees' Provident Fund administration. In view of this, State scales were adopted in respect of the regional offices.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

TATANAGAR TRAIN COLLISION

12 hrs.

Shri Tanti (Sikar) Sir, Under Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may take a statement thereon —

"Tatanagar Train collision on the night of the 23rd July, 1957"

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Sir, in continuation of the statement I made yesterday with regard to the collision that took place on the night of 23-7-57 just outside the Down outer signal of Tatanagar between Gua-Tata passenger and 304 Down Hazaribagh-Ranchi-Howrah Express running on the Adityapur-Tatanagar section, the latest information shows that a total of 60 passengers were injured, out of whom five were seriously injured. In addition to the relief train from Chakradharpur, the District Headquarters, which arrived the site of the accident at 0-20 hours on 24-7-57, a special train with the General Manager and other principal officers arriv-

ed at the site of the accident at 9-15 hours.

Three Railway Doctors from Tatanagar reached the site of the accident immediately and attended to all the 55 cases of minor injuries. First aid was also given to the five serious cases, of whom three were Government servants on duty with the trains and two were passengers. Out of these five serious cases, four were sent to the hospital, all of whom are doing very well and the fifth passenger was allowed to go away at his own request after the necessary medical aid on the spot.

The approximate damage to railway property was Rs 11,000.

The section over which the train was running is fully interlocked. The Driver of 304 Down Express has stated that the headlight of the train engine was burning at that time. The exact cause of the collision is under enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways, who has started his statutory enquiry at Tatanagar on the 24th instant, which is still continuing. Normal double line working has been introduced at 11 15 hours on 24-7-57

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): 'Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947'

Mr Speaker The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947"

The motion was adopted.

Shri B. E. Bhagat: Sir, I introduce the Bill