

Assam about the utilisation of the provision made for loans for Housing Colonies in Tea Plantation; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in regard thereto?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). No specific proposals in regard to utilisation of funds have so far been received from the Assam Government. The State Government had, however, made certain suggestions in regard to the enhancement of the loan assistance admissible under the scheme, liberalisation of mode of disbursement of loans, etc., to make the scheme more attractive to planters in the State. All these suggestions were accepted and the decision communicated to the State Government in September, 1957.

Low Income Group Housing Scheme

747. Shri Basumatari: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether the Government of Assam has requested the Central Government for increase of funds to assist the Low Income Group Housing Scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Yes. The Assam Government's request for an increase in allocation from Rs 8.90 lakhs (recently revised) to Rs. 16 lakhs, during 1957-58 under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme is under scrutiny.

Balance of Trade

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

748. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Sardar Iqbal Singh: .

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the position of India's trade balance with the following countries for the period 1st April to 30th September, 1957:

(i) United States of America,

(ii) U.S.S.R.,

(iii) Japan,

(iv) West Germany,

(v) United Kingdom,

(vi) Canada,

(vii) Australia; and

(b) the reasons for adverse balance of trade, if any, with these countries?

The Minister of Industry (Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The required information in respect of the six months ending 30th June 1957, for which information is readily available, has been set out in the statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No. 111]. It will be seen that the balance of trade with Canada and Australia is favourable to India. In respect of other countries, the balance is adverse largely because of heavier imports of machinery and metals.

Indian official for Sudan

749. Shri Shivananjappa: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sudan Government have requested the Government of India to lend them the services of a senior Indian officer to head the Pay Commission they propose to appoint;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have accepted the request; and

(c) if so, the name of the person to be appointed?

The Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Shri P. V. R. Rao, Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore, was selected for the purpose, but he could not leave India earlier than the 15th December 1957. The Government of Sudan wanted the officer to reach Sudan by the 15th October, 1957. As the Sudan Government were unable to wait till mid-December, and as no other officer was available immediately, they were requested to make alternative arrangements.