

(b) how long will it take to decide such cases?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) 13 cases were pending on the 31st March, 1958.

(b) In 10 cases dates for hearing have been fixed and these cases are expected to be disposed of within the next two or three months. 3 cases are sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

Evacuee Property

2141. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state the number of cases pending for decision under Section 54 of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): Nil.

Tea Gardens of Assam

2142. Shri B. C. Prodhan: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state the number of families from Orissa State working in Tea Gardens of Assam and the number of such families who were discharged from duty in the year 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): In 1957, 2302 workers were recruited from Orissa for the tea gardens in Assam and 6017 persons (including those recruited earlier) were repatriated. Information regarding the number of families is not available.

Textile Machinery

2143. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the value of the imported material required by the Textile Industry during 1957-58?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The total value of the import of Raw Cotton, Cotton, Rayon, and Woollen Manufactures and Textile Machinery etc. from the beginning of 1957 to the end of September 1957 is Rs. 9174.32 lakhs. More up to date information is not available.

Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals

2144. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the steps taken by Government subsequent to the submission of the report of the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee to reduce the dependence on foreign firms in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and the revision of agreements of collaboration between Indian and foreign firms to reduce such dependence?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Since the submission of the report of the Pharmaceutical-Enquiry Committee, series of steps have been taken to develop the pharmaceutical industry in India:

1. Existing manufacturers are being encouraged to undertake production from intermediates near to basic chemicals.

2. New manufacturers are being permitted to get into the field on the basis of their undertaking production of basic drugs as soon as possible and according to programmes approved by Government.

3. Establishment of a plant to meet the requirements of intermediates of not only the existing units but also of new units more satisfactorily is being planned for implementation during this Plan period.

4. Steps have been taken to expand the manufacture of penicillin at Pimpri and also to set up a unit for Streptomycin in that place as soon as possible.

5. Based on expert studies undertaken by suitable agencies, steps are under consideration for the establishment of manufacture of Synthetic Drugs, additional quantities of Antibiotics, etc. from basic stages in the most suitable manner.

In regard to revision of agreements of collaboration between Indian and foreign firms, whenever such agreements come up for revision or new agreements are presented for approv-