

(d) The Scheme is being implemented by stages. Areas with a concentration of 1,500 to 5,000 workers are now being covered. As there are no such areas in Himachal Pradesh, it will take some time before the introduction of the Scheme in the State is considered.

Nangal Fertilizers and Chemicals (Private) Ltd.

2188. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes have since been filled up in the Nangal Fertilizers and Chemicals (Private) Ltd., and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Firstly, suitably qualified candidates are not forthcoming; and secondly, the Company is committed to employ, as far as possible, displaced villagers whose lands have been acquired for the Project. Efforts are nevertheless always being made to get as many persons from Scheduled Castes as possible.

Handlooms in Punjab

2188. { **Shri Daljit Singh:**
 Shri Sadhu Ram:

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

(a) the number of handlooms at present working in Punjab;

(b) the progress made to bring these looms under the co-operative sector and how many are under this sector in Punjab; and

(c) the amount of Central Government aid given to this industry in Punjab during 1957-58 and the

amount proposed to be given during 1958-59?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) The number of handlooms registered upto February, 1958 is 37,590, but no reliable information is available as to how many of these are working.

(b) The number of handlooms in the co-operative sector was 12,445 as on 31st December 1957 as against 6,386 on 31st March 1955.

(c) Central aid during 1957-58 amounted to Rs. 2,97,614 and the amount proposed to be given during 1958-59 is Rs. 5,00,000.

Houses for Displaced Persons in Punjab

2189. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses that have been allotted or sold to the displaced persons so far in the displaced persons colonies built for them in Punjab; and

(b) the number of houses, if any, that still remain un-allotted or unsold?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Development of Sericulture in Punjab

2190. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to the Punjab Government for the development of sericulture during the last four years; and

(b) the amount asked for during the same period?