

middle class people. But, the scheme has not yet been finalised.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether there is any scheme for hire purchase system for housing for the middle classes?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: This particular scheme will be of loan financing to be repaid in 25 years' time. This is more or less a hire purchase system.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the finances will be made available from the Insurance Corporation or from the Housing Finance Corporation?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The present proposal is for loan financing from the L.I.C.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know what happened to the proposal of forming a Housing Corporation as stated by the hon. Minister during the Budget Session last year?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We are in the midst of preparing a Bill for necessary legislation for the creation of Housing Corporations in the States.

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether the Government are considering the building of houses for the low income group themselves and renting them out?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have allowed the State Governments up to a limit of 25 per cent of the total allotment to build houses which they may hire on out for the low income group or sell on a no-profit-no-loss basis.

Shri Dasappa: May I know what progress has been made so far?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I should like to have separate notice for that.

Industrial Estate, Gauhati

*1846. **Shri Liladhar Kotoki:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the Industrial Estate at Gauhati in the State of Assam;

(b) the amount allotted by the Central Government and the amount actually spent so far;

(c) when the Estate is expected to start functioning;

(d) whether the projected Estate is behind the schedule; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industry (**Shri Manubhai Shah**): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See appendix VIII. annexure No. 15.]

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: From the statement it is found that in the early stages, the progress of the construction of the estate was delayed due to want of building materials. It has also been stated that the programme will be completed by October, 1958. May I know whether all the requisite materials have been provided for so as to enable the estate to be completed by October, 1958?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. As has been stated, construction has come to the roof level and we expect to be able to implement the programme by October, 1958.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: May I know whether it is laid down in the scheme that training facilities will be given to the indigenous craftsmen to learn modern methods in small and cottage industries in the estate?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not part of this scheme; nor have we any subsidiary scheme for training craftsmen. We do have production-cum-training centres and also separate intensive training centres for training potential artisans and craftsmen for the manufacture of articles.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know the articles that the estate proposes to manufacture?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is a list of 25 and more articles which are indigenous in Assam starting from brass ware, cutlery, agricultural

implements and tools, some of the machine tools, electrical motors, etc.

Machinery for Sugar Industry

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*1842. { Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a U.S. engineering firm is negotiating with the Government of India to secure licences for the manufacture of machinery for the sugar industry in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Damani: May I know the present capacity of manufacturing sugar machinery in the country and whether the entire plant is being manufactured or parts are only manufactured?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have licensed six factories in the country which will enable us to produce by 1960-61 thirteen sugar plants from A to Z every year.

Shri Damani: May I know the imports made in 1956-57 and 1957-58 and the arrangements made for the present year?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It was Rs. 3½ crores in 1955, Rs. 4.7 crores in 1956. The figures for 1957 are not fully available. Perhaps it will be about Rs. 7.2 crores.

Maheshwari Mines in Madhya Pradesh

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*1843. { Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maheshwari Mines in Madhya Pradesh have been closed recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers involved; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to reopen these mines?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) The Chikla Manganese Mine of Messrs Maheshwari Mining and Trading Company Nagpur was closed on the 29th March, 1958.

(b) As the labourers were not paid full wages for the week ending 27-3-58 they obstructed the movement of ore. The management apprehended serious trouble and closed the Mine on 29-3-1958.

(c) Approximately 1,000.

(d) On the intervention of the Regional Labour Commissioner, the Mines was re-opened on the 3rd April, 1958 and an agreement was effected between the parties, on the 4th April, 1958.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know whether the wages that were due to the workers have been paid since then?

Shri L. N. Mishra: As a result of the agreement, some payment was made on the 27th of March. The next payment was to be made on 3rd April, 1958.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: There seems to be some mismanagement going on in these mines. May I know whether the Government are investigating into that in order to ensure that such closures do not take place and these mines work?

Shri L. N. Mishra: There was no complaint from this mine before. Only recently, the trouble has arisen because of card-holders and non-card-holders; that is on account of the casual labour's case.