

(c) and (d). In view of the present difficult foreign exchange position and the strain of repayments in the Third Plan period, Government have no proposal at present for revision of targets.

#### Distribution of Cotton Yarn

2222. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new system of distribution of cotton yarn has been introduced in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the main features of this scheme?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Small Scale Industries in Punjab

2223. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the nature of small scale industries to be established in the hilly areas of Punjab in order to help in creating employment during the Second Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** Since small-scale industries are established mainly by private parties, the nature of industries to be established in future cannot be stated in advance. It may however be stated that in starting pilot schemes of new industries the State Government will take into account considerations like marketing possibilities, availability of raw materials and the skill and aptitude of the artisans of the region.

#### Export of Agricultural Commodities to Russia

2224. **Shri Naldurgker:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S.S.R. has placed orders for supply of agricultural commodities in India;

(b) if so, what are those commodities and the amounts contracted for;

(c) whether these commodities have been exported to Russia; and

(d) if so, the total tonnage exported with the total price thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These details are known only to private sellers, and are naturally not available to Government.

(c) and (d). Full particulars of exports can be seen from the Statistical publications of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, copies of which are available in the library of the House.

#### Indian Officials Kidnapped by Pakistanis

2225. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Indian officials of the Forest Department, Beloria sub-Division were kidnapped on the 16th August, 1958 by Pakistani forces;

(b) what action have Government taken in the matter; and

(c) names of the officials and their present whereabouts?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) to (c). The facts are that a group of Pakistanis attacked, on 15th August 1958, a party of Indian nationals including a Forester and two forest guards near village Madhyam Krishnagar about 200 yards from the border and kidnapped the Forester, Shri Pankaj Mukerjee. The question of his release was taken up at the Indo-Pak. Conference held at Karachi from 30th August to 2nd September, 1958, when lists of prisoners involved in recent border incidents were exchanged. It was agreed that prisoners whose names were common to the lists prepared by the two Governments would be released on 9th September; and that early verification and release would be effected in the case of those whose names were not common to both lists. The name of Shri Pankaj Mukerjee appeared on the Indian list but not on the Pakistan list. Verification is, therefore, necessary in this case. The matter is being pursued.