

Rural Housing Programme

564. { Shri Kodiyar:
Shri Bahmiki:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the progress so far made by the village housing projects scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): A statement showing the progress made by the various States towards implementation of the village Housing Projects Scheme is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 45.]

Sericulture in West Bengal

565. Shri Ghosal: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board which met in Bombay in the month of May, has taken up any scheme for the improvement of sericulture in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. At a meeting held on the 5th May, 1958, the Central Silk Board considered a scheme for the establishment of a Spun Silk Mill in West Bengal submitted by the Government of West Bengal. The scheme is designed to improve the utilisation of silk waste, which is at present being exported, to produce spun silk yarn of good quality. It is estimated to involve an outlay of Rs. 37 lakhs as capital cost and Rs. 11.11 lakhs as recurring expenditure per annum. The consideration of the scheme has been deferred for the present, in view of the difficult foreign exchange position as the machinery worth Rs. 23.73 lakhs approximately has to be imported.

Diplomatic Pass-port

566. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of diplomatic pass-ports issued so far during 1958; and

(b) the total number of applications for these pass-ports pending?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Replies have not yet been received from ten Pass-port Issuing authorities abroad, but from the information furnished by the rest, the figures are the following:

(a) 164.

(b) 3.

Handloom Export Trade

567. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2602 on the 22nd April, 1958 and state the action taken on the report of the team of American experts which visited India under the auspices of the Ford Foundation to advise Government on the handloom export trade?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The Report has been considered and it has been decided to set up a Handloom Export Organisation. The details are being worked out.

Textile Mills

568. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the up-to-date number of:—

(1) Textile Mills:

(i) Active (ii) Inactive;

(2) Handlooms:

(i) Active (ii) Inactive;

(3) Powerlooms;

(4) Ambar Charkhas; and

(5) Ordinary Charkhas?

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

- (1) Textile Mills:
- (a) Cotton.
- (i) Working: 447; Closed down: 32;
- (b) Woollen/Worsted
- (i) Working: 122; Closed down: 5;
- (c) Artsilk
- (i) Working: 3770; Closed down: 1.
- (2) (i) and (ii) Exact information is not available.
- (3) (a). Cotton.
- 27,703, including 703 powerlooms in the handloom sector;
- (b) Woollen
4042.
- (c) Artsilk
44,500.
- (4) 2,11,739 Ambar Charkhas have been manufactured upto 30-6-1958
- (5) Exact number is not available

Recovery of Buried Treasures

569. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state the value of buried treasures which have been recovered in India and Pakistan respectively upto now?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): Cash, Bullion and Currency notes belonging to the evacuees in Pakistan of the value of about Rs 2 lakhs have been recovered as a result of buried treasure operations carried out in India. In addition jewellery and other valuables have also been recovered, the exact value of which is not available as these are allowed to be exported under Luggage Certificates issued by the Pakistan Liaison Officer.

Property of displaced persons worth about Rs. 89 lakhs has been recovered as a result of buried treasure operations conducted in West Pakistan.

Industrial Housing Colony in Delhi

570. Shri Kunhan: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction of Industrial Housing Colony on Najafgarh Road, Delhi has been completed;
- (b) if so, the number of houses allotted;
- (c) the method of their allotment;
- (d) whether the colony is provided with market place and school; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken to provide these facilities?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Construction of all the 1,380 houses on Najafgarh Road Delhi, has been completed under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme.

(b) Allotment of the houses had to await provision of basic amenities such as water, electricity, sewerage etc, most of which has now been done. 710 houses have already been allotted, and the remainder are also expected to be allotted by September, 1958.

(c) The allotment is being made by an *ad-hoc* Committee constituted by the Delhi Administration, which consists of two representatives each of the employers and the Trade Union of employees, two officials and two independent persons selected from the former Delhi Vidhan Sabha Members.

(d) Not yet.

(e) The land required for a school was allotted by the Delhi Administration to the then Delhi Municipal Committee about a year back. Arrangements are now in hand for