

Tea

2832. { **Shri Osman Ali Khan:**
Shri N. B. Ghosh:
Shri Ramoshwar Tanti:

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

(a) the comparative figures of production of tea upto the end of July, in 1957 and 1958;

(b) the estimated increase in production this year over the last year's production;

(c) whether the price, common tea is fetching is uneconomical; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

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

(a) and (b). Production upto the end of July:—

1957	..	274,333,000 lbs.
1953	..	293,805,000 lbs.

It is too early to forecast the total production in whole of year 1958.

(c) and (d). Up-to-date data about cost of production in various regions is not available and it is not possible to say that the prices fetched by common tea are economic or uneconomic. The industry maintains that the prices of these teas are not remunerative and wants some relief in export duty to withstand competition from other parts of the world. The trend of recent exports has, however, been satisfactory.

State Plans

2833. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has started discussions with representatives of State Governments on the re-assessment of their programmes in the last two years of the Plan and the measures to raise the requisite additional resources; and

(b) if so, the results of the discussions held so far?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) The Planning Commission is at present having discussions with the States regarding assessment of financial resources for the last two years of the Plan. At these discussions the question of reassessment of their programmes is not being discussed.

(b) So far, discussions with six States, viz., Mysore, West Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have been concluded. It will be possible to give the results of these discussions only after all the discussions have been concluded.

Finance for Tea Gardens

2834. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion has recently been received from the State Government of Assam to convene a conference of tea interests, financiers and Government representatives for determining the procedure of block finance to the tea gardens;

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto; and

(c) whether the question of closed tea gardens will also be taken up in the proposed conference?

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

(a) The Government of Assam were proposing to have a conference for the purpose.

(b) The matter is under correspondence with the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Demolition of Huts near Ashoka Hotel.

2835. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that labourers residing in