

**Firm** The matter is under examination. It is understood that some representatives of the Italian firm have recently visited the site for first hand study of local conditions

#### Import of Sudan Egyptian Cotton

**2210 Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Committee of the Cotton Textile Consultative Board set up by Government has recommended to make immediate and substantial import allocations for Sudan Egyptian cotton,

(b) the total quantity of cotton allowed to be imported;

(c) the quantity to be reserved for mills under the incentive scheme, and

(d) what is the stock of foreign cotton at present?

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

(a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) So far, during the current cotton season beginning 1st September 1958, Government have permitted for import in all 321,000 bales of foreign cotton out of which 145,500 bales have been earmarked for import by mills under the Export Incentive Scheme.

(d) As on 31st October, 1958 the stock of foreign cotton with the mills and trade is estimated at about 1.05 lakh bales

#### Conference on Tea Industry

**2211 Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of Government officials, representatives of State and Reserve Bank of India, Tea planters and labour representatives is going to be held in Shillong soon, and

(b) if so, the object of the conference?

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

(a) and (b) The Government of Assam desired to convene a Conference at Shillong to consider the needs of the tea industry for block and crop finance. As efforts are currently being made to assess roughly the magnitude of the problem in consultation with the banking authorities, such a conference is not now being convened for the present. It may be convened later if necessary.

#### Afro-Asian Economic Conference

**2212 Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a trade delegation of 50 representatives of various Indian industries were to participate in the Afro-Asian Economic Conference;

(b) if so, the number of representatives who were actually allowed to participate,

(c) the reason thereof, and

(d) the names of the industries, the members of which will be represented at the Conference?

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

(a) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had initially nominated a team of 18 persons

(b) and (c) It was suggested to the Federation that to keep the expenditure on foreign exchange to the minimum necessary, a smaller delegation would be appropriate. The Federation finally deputed only 5 persons.

(d) The Government of India have no knowledge concerning the interest taken into consideration by the Federation in deciding the composition of the delegation.