

not been able to make any specific recommendations to the Government of India as the proposals received by them were either not duly supported by offers of funds or were, in certain cases, withdrawn by the sponsors.

Trade with Japan

1505. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Daljit Singh:

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

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the export of Indian goods to Japan during 1958-59 in comparison with that of 1957-58; and

(b) whether the imports into India from Japan have declined during 1958-59 as compared to 1957-58?

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

(a) and (b). A statement showing figures of India's export to and import from Japan for 1957-58 and 1958-59 (April-November 1958) is placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 41].

Legislation for Motor Transport Workers

1506. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Kodiyan:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 850 on the 11th December, 1958 and state at what stage is the question of enacting legislation to regulate working conditions of motor transport workers?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The various proposals regarding hours of work, spread-over and payment for overtime work for motor transport workers are still under examination of the Central Government.

Partition Committee

1507. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 8 on the 17th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether any more meetings of the Partition Committee of the West Pakistan and Punjab Governments were held to discuss matters regarding which agreement was not reached; and

(b) if so, the matters regarding which decisions have been reached?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No Sir. No further meeting of the Partition Committee of the Governments of West Pakistan and Punjab has since been held.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Gunny Bags

1508. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Department purchased gunny bags during November or December, 1958; and

(b) whether the prices were lower than the minimum prices fixed by the Indian Jute Mills Association?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) 46,400 bales (139,20,000 pieces) of B Twill Jute Bags valued at Rs. 133.42 lakhs were purchased on the 9th December, 1958 by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, on behalf of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture—Department of Food.

(b) Purchases were made at prices lower than the floor prices notified by the Indian Jute Mills Association to their members.