

Government of India that reports are current about a powerful radar system being established in Pakistan by the United States?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Yes, Sir.

Export of Manganese Ore

*1495. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector is allowed to export Manganese ore along with the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd, and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of export made by the private sector in the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) July 1957 to June, 1958, 66 4 per cent.

July 1958 to December, 1958, 63 per cent.

Employees of the Rehabilitation Department

*1501. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of employees in the various offices of the Rehabilitation Ministry who have put in more than 10 years' service and have not been made permanent and are not entitled to any pensionary benefits; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to make them permanent?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) There are a number of such employees

(b) The offices subordinate to the Rehabilitation Ministry are all purely temporary organisations and the posts therein cannot, therefore, be declared permanent. As and when the staff from any of the offices is declared

surplus, efforts are made to absorb them in other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India. Declarations of quasi-permanency are also issued in respect of persons who become eligible

Sale agents for Indian Cement in Ceylon

*1504. Shri Chandak: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two sale agents have been appointed for selling Indian cement in Ceylon,

(b) how much annual business each of the sale agents has guaranteed; and

(c) what penalty will be imposed on the sale agents individually if they fail to fulfil their respective quotas and how the penalties, if accrued, will be recovered?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). No sale agents have been appointed in Ceylon, but contracts for export of 24000 tons of cement have been executed by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd. with two parties, for 12,000 tons in each case, to be lifted during a period of six months

(c) The contracts provide for payment by an irrevocable and confirmed Letter of Credit and for settlement of disputes by arbitration in New Delhi.

Export of Iron Ore

*1507 Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no order for the export of iron ore from Calcutta Port during 1958-59 has yet been placed,

(b) the amount of iron ore which now lies in the Calcutta Port and awaits export, and

(c) what is the reason for not placing so far the order for the export of iron ore from Calcutta Port for 1958-59?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (c) Orders for 1958-59 have been placed on the different sectors serving Calcutta Port depending on the expected availability of transport facilities

(b) About 72,000 tons as on 28th February, 1959

Central Committee on Employment

*1508 { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta
Shri L Achaw Singh
Shri S M. Banerjee:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra
Shri Panigrahi.

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Committee on Employment has been fully constituted

(b) whether the Committee have held any meetings, and

(c) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes

(b) No

(c) Does not arise

Furniture Manufacturing Factory

*1509 Shri V. P Nayar: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of India have any plans to start a large scale furniture manufacturing factory to meet Government of India's requirements, and

(b) the amount spent every year on furniture during the course of the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K Chanda): (a) No, Sir

(b) Except for furnishing residences of Ministers, Members of the Planning Commission, Judges of the Supreme Court and Members of Parliament,

the responsibility of furnishing offices rests with the Ministries themselves, their attached, and subordinate offices and with the Centrally Administered Area Administrations and their offices. The amount spent every year on furniture is, therefore, not readily available

Legislation for Compulsory Employment of the Handicapped

*1510. { Shri S M. Banerjee:
Shri Warior:
Shri Tangamani.

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to have a legislation for compulsory employment of the handicapped, and

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been submitted by International Labour Organization?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No

(b) Does not arise

Closure of Coffee Houses

*1511. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C Sharma:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 497 on the 3rd December, 1958 and state

(a) whether all the remaining coffee houses have since been closed; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir, except three at Calcutta, Parliament House, New Delhi and Srinagar

(b) These are being retained on account of their prestige value, and their propaganda value for Indian Coffee among visiting foreigners