

(c) the number of such mismanaged and closed tea gardens up till now recorded with Government?

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

(a) There is no specific proposal to take over the management of specific closed or mismanaged tea gardens. However, the question of assuming powers similar to those in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, for regulating the tea industry is under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

India's Trade Balance with U.S.A.

3571. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that India's adverse trade balance with the U.S.A. in 1958 rose sharply to Rs 68.27 crores from Rs 38.45 crores in the previous year and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the decline in Indian exports?

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

(a) India's export figures to the U.S.A. are inflated to some extent by the inclusion of demonetised silver sent in fulfilment of lend-lease obligations. The more accurate position of India's trade with the U.S.A. is given in the statement laid on the Table [See Appendix VII, annexure No 57].

(b) A fall in demand, decline in commodity prices and competition from other supplying countries are the main reasons.

Grant of Loan to Refugees of Khowai (Tripura)

3572. Shri Bangshi Thakur: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that loan applications of more than 200 refugees of Kalyanpur, Khowai, Tripura are pending for a long time, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha in due course.

Small Scale Industries

3573. Shri E. Madhusudan Rao: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) the amount allotted for the development of Small Scale Industries in the country under the Second Five Year Plan,

(b) the formula adopted for the distribution of this amount among the various States,

(c) the share of Andhra Pradesh, and

(d) the share received to date by Andhra Pradesh under this head?

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table [See Appendix VII, annexure No 58].

Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Punjab

3574. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether any housing colonies for Weavers' Co-operative Societies have been started in Punjab,

(b) if so the number of such colonies completed and the number of weavers who have been settled in these colonies, and

(c) the location of such colonies?

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

(a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.