

have since been received?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): No concrete proposal for the manufacture of plastic machinery in collaboration with foreign firm, has yet been received by Government. It is understood that proposals in this regard are under negotiation between the parties concerned.

Rayon Pulp Factory in Kerala

88. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 267 on the 24th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether negotiations for the procurement of machinery for setting up a Rayon Pulp Factory in Kerala have since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The negotiations are still going on and are likely to be finalised soon.

Export of Iron Ore

89. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 224 on the 19th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether additional facilities for shipment at Paradip Port have become available; and

(b) if so, the nature of steps taken to increase the quantity of iron ore for export?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The possibility of increasing the capacity of Paradip Port is being examined by proper authorities.

Wage Board for Plantation Industry.

90. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Ramji Verma:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 149 on the 19th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for the Plantation Industry has been set up;

(b) if so, its broad features; and

(c) whether it has started its work?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Provident Fund Scheme

91. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 234 on the 19th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations made by the Study Group on Social Security regarding the conversion of Provident Fund Scheme into an old-age and/or survivorship pension (for widows and children); and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The recommendations are still under examination in consultation with the interests concerned.

International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos

92. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred

Question No. 124 on the 19th November, 1959 and state whether any steps have been taken for the reactivation of International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There have been no further developments in the direction of re-convening International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos.

Passport Racket

93. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri A. M. Tariq:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 32 on the 16th November, 1959 and state:

(a) whether investigations into passport racket have been completed; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The investigations are still in progress.

औद्योगिक दुर्घटनायें

१४. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या कम और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या १९५८ की तुलना में १९५९ में औद्योगिक दुर्घटनाओं की संख्या में वृद्धि हुई है ?

अस उपमंत्री (श्री आबिद अली) : १९५९ की औद्योगिक दुर्घटनाओं के पूरे आँकड़े अभी तक प्राप्त नहीं हैं। इसलिए यह कहना सम्भव नहीं है कि १९५८ की तुलना में इन में वृद्धि हुई है।

Industrial Committee on Mines

95. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) when the next meeting of the Industrial Committee on Mines other

than Coal Mines will be held;

(b) the subjects likely to be discussed at the next meeting of the above Committee;

(c) whether the recommendations and decisions taken at the first meeting of the Industrial Committee have since been implemented; and

(d) if not, what are the recommendations which have not yet been implemented and the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). No date has been fixed, or agenda settled.

(c) and (d). Appropriate action has already been taken for the implementation.

Import of Medical Instruments

96. Shri Padam Dev: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the import of medical instruments during 1959; and

(b) the steps being taken to meet the shortage of these instruments by indigenous production?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The value of imports of medical, surgical and dental instruments during the year 1959 (January—November) is Rs. 117.39 lakhs.

(b) The following are the measures taken to increase indigenous production of medical, surgical and dental instruments:

(1) Assistance is given to existing manufacturers of these instruments in matter of import of the necessary raw materials and components for their manufacture.

(2) New units are being encouraged to take up the manufacture of these instruments. Thus four schemes have recently been approved for the manufacture of X-Ray and Electro-medical equipment. A scheme of M/s Government Precision Instruments Factory, Lucknow for the manufacture of