

E.C.A.F.E. Meeting

2877. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what matters were discussed at the recent 17th Session of the ECAFE held in New Delhi;

(b) what recommendations were made therein; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to implement the same, so far as India's part is concerned?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Nityanand Kanungo): (a). Some of the important subjects discussed at the 17th Session of the ECAFE were: Economic situation in Asia; Reports of the 4th Session of the ECAFE Committee on Trade, 13th Session of the ECAFE Committee on Industry and Natural Resources and 9th Session of the Inland Transport and Communications Committee; Economic Development and Planning; Community Development; Water Resources Development; Regional Economic Co-operation; and decentralisation of the United Nations Economic and Social Activities and strengthening of the Regional Economic Commissions.

(b) and (c). A copy of the final report of the 17th Session of the ECAFE will be placed on the Table of the House, as soon as it is prepared.

Closure of Cloth Mills in Gujarat

2878. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many cloth mills have been closed in Gujarat due to shortage of coal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir. Only

one mill viz., the Maharana Mills Limited, Porbandar had to close down for some time due partly to shortage of coal and partly to shortage of electric power.

(b) Arrangements were made to rush coal supplies to the mills in question in block rakes to restart the work.

Companies in which Orissa Government have Shares

2879. Shri P. K. Deo: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies in which Government of Orissa have shares and the amount of shares in each such company;

(b) the profit and loss of each such company during the last three years and dividend received by Orissa Government, if any, from such company;

(c) whether any of these Companies have made any contribution to political parties during the last 3 years and, if so, the name of the party and the amount of contribution; and

(d) whether Government directors in such companies or the board of directors and the general body of shareholders have approved such donations?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Nityanand Kanungo): (a) The requisite information is furnished in the statement enclosed. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 82].

(b) to (d). Information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and shall be made available to the House as soon as received.

Fire-proof Chemical Solution

2880. Shri Kumbhar: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any chemical solution has been manufactured so far in India or abroad in private or public sector to make the straw-thatched houses fire proof throughout the year by its application;

(b) whether any experiment has been started in India so far; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No. It has, however, been possible to retard the action of fire and to reduce the spreading of flames to a considerable extent. The treated material chars but does not burn and thus helps in localising the fire.

(b) Yes. Experiments are being conducted by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun to find out suitable chemicals and solutions which may make straw and thatch fire-proof.

(c) The problem is in the experimental stage.

International Tea Convention in Calcutta

2861. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Tea Convention will be held in Calcutta under the auspices of the Tea Board;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) what matters are likely to be discussed in the convention?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In November, 1961.

(c) Details are being worked out by the Tea Board.

Plastics and Linoleum Export Promotion Council

2862. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade mission of the Plastics and Linoleum Export Promotion Council left India in March, 1961 on a tour of the far east countries;

(b) if so, which countries will the mission visit; and

(c) what is the object of the mission?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). A team left India on 24th March, 1961 for a visit to Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

(c) The object of the visit is to study:—

- (i) the modern methods of production, the raw materials used, the packaging methods employed, the quality checks adopted by manufacturers in Japan and Hong Kong and the possibilities of modernising the machinery;
- (ii) the organisation and techniques of export promotion;
- (iii) the methods employed for settlement of commercial disputes; and
- (iv) the sale prospects in the countries to be visited.

Employees of the Indian Embassy in New York

2883. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some temporary employees in the Indian Embassy and affiliated offices in New York who have rendered a service of 5 years and more have not been made permanent and have also not been brought under the Government of India regulations for retirement benefits;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no gratuity is given to students who work in the Embassy and other offices while pursuing their studies in college at night and they are stranded there being unable to come back to India and settle there itself thus depriving India of the services of many technical men; and