

be transferred to some Ministry nominated by the Government for the purpose. The decision in regard to the successor Ministry has not yet been taken. It is proposed to create a separate Cell or Directorate to deal with the residuary work under the successor Ministry.

Paper Manufacturing Machinery

*1545. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

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

(a) whether Government have received any offer from an American concern to set up a plant in India for paper manufacturing machinery;

(b) whether it is a fact that a representative of the concern visited Ludhiana recently in this connection;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered the offer; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware whether a representative of the American firm have visited Ludhiana.

(c) and (d). The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Export of Cotton

*1546. Shri Anandhindo Ghosh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of cotton has declined in 1960;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The export of raw cotton which amounted to 3,29,698 bales in 1959, decreased to 1,86,283 bales in 1960, registering a fall of 1,43,415 bales.

(c). This decline was due to the successive failures of the cotton crop in 1958-59 and 1959-60, which made it absolutely imperative to conserve within the country all varieties of cotton which could be used by the mills, leaving for export only such varieties as could not be so utilised.

F.A.O. Report on Tea trends and Prospects

*1547. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation has recently submitted a report regarding tea production warning against accumulation of large amounts of surplus tea in the ensuing five to six years, in case the present trends of production, consumption and export continued;

(b) if so, what were the details of its observations and recommendations; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to avoid such accumulation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations issued in 1960 a Commodity Bulletin titled "Tea—Trends and Prospects". The Bulletin contains a detailed study of the trends in production and consumption of tea in the different countries of the world and an estimate of the probable world surplus of production over consumption. This surplus is estimated at about 88 million lbs. to 110 million lbs. by 1965.

(c) Government do not expect that a surplus of the size forecast will materialise. Taking into consideration the trend in consumption in the West Asian countries as also in the tea producing countries in Asia, the absorption of much of the estimated surplus may not present a serious problem.