

Import of Cotton from Pakistan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India proposes to seek increased supply of cotton from Pakistan;

(b) if so, how much cotton is to be imported from that country during the next year and how much cotton was imported from that country during each of the last two years; and

(c) the Pakistan Government's response to the proposal mentioned in part (a) above?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Import of cotton from Pakistan is made under the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement. During the last two years of the Agreement, imports of Pakistan Cotton amounted to 33,891 bales and 32,437 bales (upto 3rd March, 1962) respectively. As for the next year, it is too early to indicate the quantity that is likely to be imported.

(c) The proposal is yet to be made.

Minerals in NEFA

754. Shri D. Ering: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rich mineral resources in N.E.F.A. area; and

(b) if so, whether Government are going to explore the mineral resources at an early date?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The Geological Survey took up investigations of mineral resources of N.E.F.A. during the Second Five Year Plan period and these investigations are still continuing. Some deposits of coal, pyrites,

iron-ore, lime-stone and petroleum have been found. The work done so far has not, however, indicated the presence of mineral resources in such quantities as to permit their exploitation.

Sugar Wage Board

755. Shrimati Vimala Devi: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar factories which have implemented the recommendations of the All India Sugar Wage Board and the names of those which have not yet implemented the same, in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the action taken by Government to get the recommendations implemented in those factories?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) Recommendations of the Board have been implemented by 9 out of 11 sugar factories in Andhra Pradesh. Negotiations are in progress between the management and workers of M/s. Sarvaraya Sugars Ltd., Chelluru, with a view to implement the recommendations. The Challapalli Sugars Ltd., Challapalli, has not so far taken any step for implementation.

(b) The State Government is pursuing the matter with the managements concerned.

All India Radio, Jammu

756. Shri Abdul Ghani: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio, Jammu Station can be heard throughout the country; and

(b) if the reply be in the negative, what steps are being taken to improve the same and by what time?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): (a) No, Sir.