

cease-fire and the transfer of power in Algeria was concluded between the Government of France and the Provisional Government of Algeria on the 18th March, 1962. The Government of India have congratulated both the parties on the Agreement reached, and are doing all that they can to assist in the smooth implementation of the various provisions of the settlements reached.

Import Policy

*14. { Shri Basappa:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

(a) whether the new import policy announced recently has benefited the established importers and the actual users;

(b) whether the cut in the import of many new items had affected the trade and industry; and

(c) what savings of foreign exchange are likely to be effected by this new import policy?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a). In formulating the import policy, the progress of indigenous production, the essential requirements of the industry for raw materials and components and the foreign exchange availability and other relevant considerations have been taken into account. While the policy may not provide benefit to Established Importers—whose quota of certain items has been cut the indigenous industry will be benefited. The interests of actual users are unlikely to be affected.

(b). No, Sir. The interest of the trade and industry would not be adversely affected because the cut in quota has been effected generally in respect of goods where indigenous production has shown increase.

(c). It is not possible to assess the amount accurately.

Farmers of Daman

*15. Shri Balkrishna Wasnik: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand by the farmers of Daman for the abolition of oppressive feudal laws of the former (Portuguese) regime, which still continue to be in force; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). There have been representations both from the farmers and the landlords of Daman. These are receiving the attention of the Government.

Old Age Pension Scheme in Madras

*16. Shri Sonavane: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madras State Government have introduced a scheme of Old Age Pension to all the persons over the age of 60 under certain conditions from 1st April, 1962;

(b) if so, the nature and details of the scheme; and

(c) is there any proposal to extend such a scheme in all the States?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The Madras Government has introduced an Old Age Pension Scheme with effect from 1st April, 1962 providing for grant of pension at the rate of Rs. 20 p.m. to destitutes aged 65 years and above and to destitutes aged 60 years and above who are incapacitated by blindness, leprosy, insanity, paralysis or loss of limb, provided that the period of domicile is over one year.

(c) Old Age Pension Schemes have also been introduced by the Govern-