

Small Scale Industries

- *38. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

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

(a) whether an international planning team for small-scale industries has of late been appointed;

(b) if so, whether India is represented on this team;

(c) what is the envisaged study programme of the team;

(d) who are its members; and

(e) what are its terms of reference?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I annexure No. 2].

Art Silk Yarn

- *39. { Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that price of imported art silk yarn has gone up within the last month;

(b) if so, by what percentage; and

(c) the reasons thereof?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):

(a) to (c). It is true that the price of the imported art silk yarn has gone up gradually. However, it is not possible to assess accurately the rise or fall of prices of art silk in any particular month. On the whole, the availability of art silk yarn to the manufacturing industries both from the indigenous manufacture and imported yarn has been continuously going up during the last three years. Every effort is being further made to increase the supplies by stepping

up indigenous production on the one hand and by allowing imports of this art silk yarn against larger exports of finished fabrics. The shortage however continues because of the growing demand.

Employees' Provident Fund Scheme

*40. Shri Basappa: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new industries to which Employees' Provident Fund Scheme has been extended; and

(b) how many new workers have been brought under the coverage of this Scheme?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a). The Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952 and the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 framed thereunder, were applied initially to six industries in 1952. Fifty six additional industries have been covered under the Act and the Scheme since July, 1956. A statement showing the industries covered so far under the Act and the Scheme is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I annexure No. 3.]

(b) About 16·38 lakhs of additional workers were covered from the 1st August, 1956 to 31st December, 1961 bringing the total number of workers covered to 31·03 lakhs at the end of December, 1961, in exempted and non-exempted establishments.

Planning Boards in States

- *41. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Basappa:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Venkatasubbliah:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri A. S. Saigal:
Shri Bishang Keishing:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has suggested that State Planning Boards be set up in the States; and