

Public Sector Undertakings

- *149. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shrimati Renuka Ray:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 665 on the 13th September, 1963 regarding public sector undertakings and state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Committee of officials have been considered by Government;

(b) if so, whether all the recommendations have been accepted; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to implement those recommendations?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). The attention of the hon. Members is invited to the statement made by me in this House on 20th September, 1963.

Scrap Steel

- *150. { **Shri P. C. Barooah:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industries dependent on scrap steel which has been decontrolled have been facing inhibiting conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons for such conditions; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the conditions?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). The price and distribution control on all categories of scrap other than fresh unused defectives, re-rollable scrap and ingot mould scrap were removed. Subsequently the price control on re-rollable scrap also was removed.

Decontrol has led to increase in prices somewhat. This is expected to be only a passing phase as with increase in price, availability of scrap should increase and this should bring down the prices in due course. Generators of scrap have been advised to release decontrolled varieties of scrap on an equitable basis to the consumers.

Financial Aid to Punjab Tea Planters

346. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of **International Trade** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial aid given to the Punjab tea planters by the Tea Board and the Central Government during 1961, 1962 and 1963 and the purposes therefor; and

(b) the amount proposed to be given during 1964 and its purposes?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) 1961-62—Nil.

1962-63—Rs. 3 lakhs through the Tea Board for the setting up of a Co-operative Tea Factory at Kangra.

(b) It is not possible to assess the amount that would be paid in 1964. Various proposals for the rehabilitation and development of the tea industry in the Punjab are at present under the consideration of the Tea Board.

Import from Persian Gulf Ports

347. Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Will the Minister of **International Trade** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the countrycraft owners of Saurashtra have represented against the decision of Government permitting the import of dates and other goods from Persian Gulf Ports by steamers as well;

(b) the considerations prevailed with Government to take such a step; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?