

- (4) The essential requirements of imported raw materials components and spares are met fully.

HEDGING FACILITIES IN COTTON TRADE:

*852. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received for early start of hedging facility in the trade of cotton;

(b) whether it has been suggested that the restriction regarding duration of the delivery contracts confined to one month should be wholly removed; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is not contemplating reviving the hedging facilities in cotton trade. Other matters are under examination.

PRODUCTION OF PAPER AND PAPER BOARD

*853. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for stepping up the production of paper and paper board has not made much headway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

(c) whether the country is likely to face an acute shortage of paper and paper board in the coming years as a result of the slow progress of the paper industry; and

(d) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to meet the anticipated shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stagnation in the growth of Paper industry is due to high capital

cost involved in Paper Schemes, shortage of rupee capital, shortage of conventional raw materials and unremunerative prices of paper which continue to remain in force for the last 5 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

*854. SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1364 on the 20th February, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the Mehta Committee has since submitted its report on the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Report has been received very recently and arrangements for its printing have been made. Examination of the recommendations and suggestions made in the Report has also been undertaken.

CATEGORISATION OF ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*855. SHRI KIKAR SINGH : SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : SHRI P. N. SOLANKI : SHRI R. K. AMIN : SHRI RAMCHANDRA J. AMIN : SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA : SHRI D. R. PARMAR : SHRI O. P. TYAGI : SHRI NAMBIAR : SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR : SHRI RAM SEWAK YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the broad principle followed in categorising Railway employees as Essential and Non-essential; and

(b) what are the privileges specially granted to the Essential Categories which are denied to the non-essential categories ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). Only in the matter of allotment of Railway quarters, Railway employees have been classified as "essential" and "non-essential". "Essential" employees are those who are liable to be called to duty at any hour of the day or night.

No firm principles have been or can be formulated for uniform application on the Railways for classification of staff as "essential" and "non-essential", since varying local conditions have to be taken into account and the Railway Administrations have been given powers to classify the staff in the two categories according to requirements.

The "essential" staff are given about 70% of the Railway quarters that are available for allotment at any station.

Railway employees have not been classified as "essential" or "non-essential" for any other purpose.

PRICE OF INDIAN TEA IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

*856. **SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Indian tea has fallen in the international markets after the devaluation of Ceylonese rupee;

(b) whether Indian tea is also being sold at a price below the cost of production in some foreign countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI

MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Prices of tea have been gradually falling in the international market during the last five years and Indian tea is no exception to this declining trend; it is, however, too early to assess the impact of Ceylonese devaluation on the prices of Indian tea.

(b) Not so far as Government are aware, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Some measures have been proposed in the budget for 1968-69. The position is under constant review of Government and appropriate action will be taken as and when considered necessary.

BAN ON IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM JELLIES

*857. **SHRI MADHU LIMAYE :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Petroleum Jellies conforming to B.P. and I.P. standards are being manufactured in India;

(b) whether Government imposed a ban on the imports of these products in 1966;

(c) if so, whether this ban is still in force;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the licences issued to some parties in violation of this import prohibition;

(e) if so, the names of these parties; and

(f) the loss of foreign exchange involved ?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f). The matter is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

SMALL CAR PROJECT

*858. **DR. KARNI SINGH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVE-