

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the demands of the old settlers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidy Charan Shukla): (a) There is no scheme at present to settle 4 lakhs of refugees in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and allot them five acres of paddy land and five acres of hilly land.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Old settlers have been making persistent demands for additional land to meet their growing requirements. The local Administration are taking steps to provide to these people (i) house sites in South Andamans as well as at other places, (ii) agricultural land in Rutland Island and (iii) land for raising plantation crops in Alexander Island.

Rehabilitation of Refugees in West Bengal

*949 Dr. Ramesh Sen.

Shri Kameshwar Singh.

Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has agreed with the West Bengal Government to rehabilitate refugees of ex-camp sites of West Bengal numbering nearly 10,000 families in West Bengal at the Centre's cost; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the agreement?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The Ministry has agreed to consider proposals from the State Government for the rehabilitation of ex-camp families on defunct camp sites in West Bengal. According to the latest survey conducted by the West Bengal Government in May, 1966 the total number of ex-camp families on defunct camp sites was 6,820. The West Bengal Govern-

ment have sent a proposal for the settlement at their present site of 1,237 families out of the above, which is under examination. Proposals for the settlement of remaining 5,583 families are still awaited from the State Government.

Engineering Industries

*950. Shri S. K. Tapuriah;

Shri F. N. Solanki:

Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several establishments in the engineering industry in the Bombay-Poona region have resorted to lay-off and retrenchment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that over 2,000 workers in this region have already been laid-off,

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps Government have taken to avoid any further lay-offs?

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation (Shri Hathi): (a) to (d). The matter falls in the State sphere. According to the State Government, about 1500 workers are being laid off at present due to shortage of raw materials and lack of orders. The reasons for such lay-off are investigated by the State Government and if they are due to shortage of raw materials, the cases are referred to the Director of Industries for necessary action.

Presidentship of All India Lawn Tennis Association

*951. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently a Union Cabinet Minister contested and won the Presidentship of the All-India Lawn Tennis Association;