

(b) whether there has been any increase in the export this year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Exact figures of exports of Prawns from Kerala are not available. Figures available of export of Prawns from ports included in the Customs Zone of Cochin show that 55,048 cwts. of Prawns were exported during the year 1956. The quantity exported during January-June, 1957, was 53,337 cwts., showing that exports of Prawns during the current year are taking place at a higher rate.

West Bokaro Colliery, Jharia

*958. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2,000 workers of West Bokaro colliery, Jharia are on strike since the 13th November, 1957;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to settle the dispute?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):

(a) About 1,500 workers of West Bokaro Colliery are on strike since the 12th November 1957;

(b) The demands include reinstatement of certain discharged workers, confirmation, promotion, workload, extra allowance to workers affected by diesel oil and gas, provision of quarters and schools, free conveyance, bonus etc.

(c) The efforts of the Conciliation Officer to bring about a settlement between the parties did not materialise.

Shrines in India and Pakistan

*959. { **Shri Radha Raman:**
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Padam Dev:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Started

Question No. 23 on the 11th November, 1957 regarding shrines in India and Pakistan and state:

(a) whether any reply has been received from the Government of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Pakistan have put forward certain views which are now under consideration of the Government

N.E.S. and Community Projects in Marathwada

*960. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation officer has been appointed to examine the progress of development works in National Extension Service Blocks and Community Projects in the Marathwada region of Bombay; and

(b) if so, whether he has submitted any report so far?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Handloom Cloth

*961. **Kumari M. Vedakumari:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large stock of handloom cloth worth Rupees 3 crores has accumulated in Andhra, and the Andhra Apex Weaver Co-operative Society has requested Government for a sum of Rupees 25 lakhs to purchase the accumulated stocks of handloom cloth;

(b) whether their request to allow a special rebate of 15 N.P. per Rupee on sale of handloom cloth for a period of six months will be considered; and

(c) whether any credit facilities will be given to these societies through State Banks or other Commercial Banks?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, such request has been received by Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India will give the necessary credit.

Pashmina Wool

*962. { Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Padam Dev:

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

(a) the quantity of pashmina wool in stock in the different States at present;

(b) the quantity that has been exported during the years 1956-57 and 1957-58 so far,

(c) the quantity imported into India during the year 1955, 1956 and 1957,

(d) whether any meeting of the States of Northern Zone was held at Chandigarh to consider the question of export of Pashmina wool and if so, the main decisions taken there; and

(e) the States which participated in the above meeting?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Panjab 1887-17-0 maunds.

Jammu & Kashmir 600-0-0 maunds.

Himachal Pradesh 400-0-0 maunds.

West Bengal 215-0-0 maunds.

(Figures are for pashmina wool in de-haired form. Out of a quantity of Mds. 1887-17-0 shown against Panjab a quantity of Mds 1157-30-10; has actually been verified so far).

(b) 118 maunds were exported during 1956. Actual export figures for 1957 are not available but during

January to September, 1957, about 1000 maunds were passed for shipment.

(c) Year. Quantity of raw pashmina imported

1955 maunds 3108

1956 maunds 4865

1957 maunds 4000*

(January-November)

*Estimated figure.

(d) and (e). A meeting was held at Chandigarh on 1-11-57 which was attended by the representatives of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and the Government of India. At this meeting it was decided that the stocks of Pashmina wool imported into the various States should be verified by the State Governments concerned and that 50 per cent. of the verified stocks should be allowed to be exported outside India.

Government Salt Works at Bassein

*962-A. { Shri Jadhav:
Shri Naushir Bharucha:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that four Government Salt Works at Bassein namely, Bhatti, Shenhkhai, Juna and Juna Vachak have been leased out to the Sarvodaya Adivasi Mith Utpadan Sahakari Sangh Limited, Gokhivera, District Thana (Bombay);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Mithagar Kamgar Sahakari Sangh Limited, Juchandra, Bassein also applied for lease of these salt works;

(c) if so, the reasons for leasing out these salt works to Sarvodaya Adivasi Mith Utpadan Sahakari Sangh Limited in preference to Mithagar Kamgar Sahakari Sangh Limited, Juchandra (Bassein);

(d) whether it is a fact that the Mithagar Kamgar Sahakari Sangh has demanded to refer the issue for arbitration; and