

ly, the railway administration and the Kashmir Government had discussed this and they have come to an agreement to up-grade the timber supply for railway purposes.

**Shri Yajnik:** Would the Minister tell us the exact percentage of timber that is now lost to us or that has been reduced during the last few years?

**Shri Kanungo:** It is not loss; nothing is lost.

**Shri Yajnik:** All right, reduction.

**Shri Kanungo:** Our anticipations are likely to be fulfilled. Our anticipation for the current year is more than four lakhs.

#### Welfare Extension Projects

\*1921. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Programme Evaluation Organisation was entrusted with the evaluation of the working of Welfare Extension Projects and other programmes undertaken by the Central Social Welfare Board in different States; and

(b) if so, whether any report has been submitted by the Organisation so far?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet, Sir.

**Shri Panigrahi:** May I know whether an early study group visiting different social welfare projects in different States suggested the transfer to these projects to the State Government and, if so, what steps have been taken in that direction?

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** I am not aware of the suggestion.

**Shri Panigrahi:** May I know whether there is a proposal to set up

any study team to study the welfare extension projects?

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** The committee on Planned Projects has already set up a sub-committee under the leadership of Shrimati Renuka Ray, a Member of Parliament.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** What is the personnel of that committee?

**The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra):** It consists of six Members. Shrimati Renuka Ray is the leader of the team and among the members are Professor Goray of the Delhi School of Social Science, Shri Heda, M.P., Shri Viyogi Hari and one financial and administrative official who is yet to be nominated.

#### Indians Arrested by Pakistan Police

\*1922. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1233 on the 28th March, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the seven nationals arrested by East Pakistan Police from Kalindi River, 24 Parganas have since been released;

(b) whether the Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Dacca was able to meet the arrested persons; and

(c) whether there is any truth in the news that these persons were beaten by Pakistan Police?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** (a) The Government of East Pakistan informed the Government of West Bengal on 3th April 1958 that these Indian nationals were arrested on the eastern bank of the river in Pakistan territory and that they were produced before the Sub-Divisional Officer, Satkhira (East Pakistan) who has released them on bail. The Court proceedings against them are pending.

(b) The Deputy High Commissioner for India at Dacca has not met them but has kept constant contact with

the Government of East Pakistan for information regarding their whereabouts.

(c) Government have no information.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Has the Government received any news from our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca? Is the Government aware that as he has not met the prisoners, the bails given to them have been cancelled and they are now again in jail?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** No, we have no information.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know whether the Government is aware that the trial is going to start tomorrow? May I also know whether Government has given any legal help for defence?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** I want notice. I am not sure whether the trial may start tomorrow or the day after. I do not know.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In view of the fact that it is much easier for us, non-officials, to get news, because it is only across the river, what is the difficulty in the way of Government getting any information of any valid character from our representatives in Dacca?

**Shri Sadath Ali Khan:** I am personally unaware of the news. I have to find out.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In this particular case for the last two months it has been next to impossible to get any information of our nationals who have been arrested. What is the machinery which Government propose to set up in order to get quick information and help those who have been arrested and kept in detention in jails in Pakistan?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** There is already a procedure laid down to deal with such matters and in

this particular case we had taken the aid of our High Commission in Karachi also. Efforts were made to get information about these seven people who were arrested. It has already been pointed out that through the efforts of the Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca, these people were released on bail. We do not know anything about their whereabouts. Every effort has been made to find out about their whereabouts. The latest information that we have is that the case is pending against them.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question Hour is over.

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

#### Import of Trucks

+

S.N.Q. { **Shri Feroze Gandhi:**  
No. 17. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that special import permits have been granted to the Hindustan Motors Ltd. for the import of Bedford or Chevrolet trucks;

(b) if so, the number of trucks for which permits have been issued; and

(c) the amount of Foreign Exchange involved and also the special circumstances in which this Exchange has been made available?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 52.]

Shall I read the statement, Sir?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not necessary. The hon. Member has read the statement.