

Waqf Properties in Punjab

*23. Shri Anwar Harvani: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all of the *waqf* properties in Punjab are still being managed by the Custodian of Evacuee Property; and

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to release their properties?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). Properties of Muslim *waqfs* in Punjab have been released in a large number of cases; but it has not been possible to release the properties of all *waqfs* as there is hardly a Muslim population left in a majority of districts in the Punjab. It has therefore been decided that properties of *waqfs* of a non-religious character, such as schools, colleges, hospitals etc. should be allotted to displaced educational and cultural institutions on nominal rent on a long term basis. As regards properties of *waqfs* of a religious character the question of their future management is still under consideration.

Sixteenth Indian Labour Conference

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the 16th Indian Labour Conference decided that Central and State Governments on their part should arrange to set right any shortcomings in the machinery they constitute for the administration of labour laws; and

(b) if so, the names of the States which have implemented this recommendation?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

The Conference, however, discussed the question of setting up of Imple-

mentation and Evaluation Machinery both at the Centre and in the States.

(b) All State Governments and Administrations, except Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur have set up sections in their Labour Departments to look into cases of non-implementation. Nine State Governments/Administrations (Bihar, Kerala, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P., West Bengal, Delhi and Tripura) have also set up tripartite Implementation Committees.

Former French Possessions

*25. Shrimati Masida Ahmed: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the latest position regarding *de jure* transfer of former French Possessions in India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): We have been informed that the question of ratification of the Treaty of Cession of the French Establishments of Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahe and Yanam will be given high priority on the agenda for the next Session of the French Parliament, due to commence on the 28th of April this year.

Aluminium Plant in Salem

*26. { Shri Subbiah Ambalam:
Shri Osman Ali Khan:
Shri E. V. K. Sampath:

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

(a) the cost of the Aluminium Plant proposed to be started in Salem;

(b) its production capacity;

(c) whether the project report on the plant by the technicians has been submitted;

(d) if so, the main features thereof, and

(e) when it is likely to be started?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (e) This

house was informed on 18th December, 1958 (in reply to Unstarred Question No 2209) that one party has made tentative suggestions for setting up an aluminium plant in collaboration with an Italian firm and that the matter is under examination. It was also stated that some representations of the Italian firm have visited the site. A report from this team of experts is awaited.

Hindustan Cables (Private) Limited

*27. Shri Ajit Singh Sarbadi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether any diversified production has been obtained in the manufacture of cables in the Hindustan Cables (Private) Limited, Rupaarainpur;

(b) whether the possibility of export has been explored to South East Asian countries; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Mannbhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The agreement with the consultants provided only for exports to Nepal, Burma, Ceylon but it has since been agreed that Indonesia should also be included in the export zone. The present expansion of the factory was designed to meet the requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, which was estimated sometime ago at 800 miles and also export of about 200 miles of cables. The requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Department alone have since risen to 1,300 miles and steps are under consideration to expand production still further both to cover the increased domestic demand and export to the extent possible.

State Awards for Films

*28. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state

(a) whether any Committee has been appointed to scrutinise the documentary films for State Awards, and

(b) if so, when and how many members are there in the Committee?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Koskar): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee for the initial examination of documentary films entered for the State Awards 1958 has recently been appointed. It consists of five members including the chairman. It might however be made clear that the duty of the Committee is only to put up a panel of documentaries before the Central Committee who alone have the authority to take a final decision.

Purchase of Newsprint from U.S.S.R.

*29. Shri Mahanty: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1016 dated the 16th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the Registrar of the Newspapers advised the State Trading Corporation to purchase 2,000 metric tons of newsprint from the U.S.S.R. even though the price quoted was higher,

(b) whether the State Trading Corporation was offered, by another source in India, newsprint at the rate of £48 per metric ton whereas the Russian supply was at the rate of £55-10-0 per metric ton,

(c) if so, why the State Trading Corporation refused to buy at a lesser cost while a firm offer was made to that effect, and

(d) what is the total amount of foreign exchange lost on this account?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The Press Registrar only advised the State Trading Corporation regarding the quality of Newsprint after ascertaining the views of newspaper interests through the I.E.N.S.

(b) Yes, Sir. The price offered by the Russians was £55 per metric ton.

(c) The offer was not of a direct deal but through a third party. Further payment was to be made in Sterling.