

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Even in our country phosphatic, potassic and bone meal fertilizers are made on a small and medium scale. For nitrogenous fertilizers, however, it is under study whether small scale plants could be economical. In some of the foreign countries, there have been small and medium sized plants for nitrogenous fertilizers also. We are expecting such schemes to be received from some of the European countries. We are also getting the Chinese experiment studied. After these studies are made, Government would try to encourage small and medium plants in nitrogenous fertilizers also.

Forest Industries in Beas Basin

*232. { Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri S C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether any decision has been taken to set up forest industries in the Beas basin, and

(b) if so, what are these industries and when these are likely to be set up?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b) The question of setting up Forest Industries in the Beas Basin is under examination.

Khadi and Handloom Cloth

*233. Shri Bibhuti Mishra Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement showing

(a) the Central rebate so far given to various States in 1957 and 1958 for Khadi cloth and handloom cloth,

(b) to what extent the rebate has encouraged Khadi and handloom cloth production, and

(c) whether Government propose to continue the grant of rebate?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 65]

(b) The production has been steadily increasing, every year, as will appear from the statement (Statement No II) placed on the Table of the Sabha. The exact extent to which production has increased on account of the rebates alone can however, be assessed.

(c) Yes, Sir, for the present.

Soda Ash

*234. Shri Oza: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties experienced by indigenous industries and other consumers in getting adequate supply of Soda Ash at reasonable prices,

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter, and

(c) whether Government contemplate imposing control over the distribution of Soda Ash?

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

(b) Steps have been taken to import larger quantities of Soda Ash and also to increase the indigenous production by licensing additional capacity for expansion of existing units and installation of new units.

(c) No, Sir.

Wage Committee for Working Journalists

*235. { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri N. Keshava:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee.
Shri Tangamani:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri D C Sharma.
Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Halder:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the