

stockpile of cotton to guard against seasonal uncertainties;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) what was the result of the recent visit to India of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). The matter is still under the consideration of the U.S. Government.

Manufacture of Cheap Radio Sets

***234. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for the production of cheap radio sets (Janata radio) for popularising radio listening under the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what is the cost of the scheme;

(c) what action has so far been taken to implement the scheme; and

(d) whether such radios are at present being manufactured in the country and if so, to what extent and at what cost they are made available to the people?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). With the increase in broadcasting facilities, it was felt that a low-priced radio receiver should be made available for the low-income group especially those living in rural areas. After discussions with the representatives of the Industry, the existing manufacturers of radio receivers were asked to produce at least 10 per cent. of their production in low-priced sets within the existing foreign exchange allocation. To provide an incentive for every 5 per cent. additional production of cheap radio sets over 10 per cent., the manufacturers were given an additional allocation of foreign exchange of 5 per cent. over their existing allocations for import of components and raw materials, subject to

a maximum production of 20 per cent. sets over and above the production of 10 per cent.

There is no additional cost of investment involved to the Industry in these arrangements. The total production of low-priced radio receivers which began in the latter half during 1960 was 2,400 sets and the production during (January—September, 1961) was of the order of 26,700 nos. and the industry plans to produce 61,000 sets. The price of low priced radio receivers is Rs. 125 exclusive of local sales tax.

Phosphorus Plant

***235.** { **Shri Morarka:**
Shri Kodiyam:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1099 on the 31st August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the question of setting up a Phosphorus plant in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the site and the total investment required for the project?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The question of setting up a Phosphorus Plant in the public Sector is still under consideration.

Death of Sixteen Indians near the Shores of Ceylon

***236. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 160 on the 20th February, 1961 and state:

(a) whether prosecution has been launched in the case of death of 16 Indians in August 1960 near the shores of Ceylon;

(b) if so, at what stage it is now; and

(c) how many of the *bona fide* passengers in the boat escaped death?

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

(a) and (b). The Governor of Madras accorded sanction on 28-9-1961 under Section 188 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (Central Act V of 1898) for the prosecution of the seven accused persons for murder on the high seas. The charge-sheet was laid before the Sub-Magistrate at Tiruchendur on 30th October 1961 under Sections 302 and 34 I.P.C. Two accused are in custody, four on bail and one tout Thangavelu is still at large. The case is before the Court but no date has so far been fixed for hearing.

(c) No *bona fide* passengers as such were involved; but there were 36 illicit emigrants in the boat out of whom 20 escaped death.

Heavy Electrical Plants

- *237. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

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

(a) whether the recommendations of the Technical Committee set up to make recommendations for suitable location of the two heavy electrical plants to be established with Czech and Soviet assistance have been considered; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

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

(b) It has been decided to locate the Czech Heavy Electrical Plant, in Ramachandrapuram near Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, and the High Pressure Boilers Plant near Tiruchi in Madras State and the Soviet Heavy Electricals Plant at Ranipur in the Saharanpur District of Uttar Pradesh.

Silk and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council

*238. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1169 on the 16th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations made in the Report of the Delegation to West Asian and African countries sponsored by the Silk and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council; and

(b) if so action taken thereon?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 35].

Shellac Trade

*239. **Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation has decided to take over the buffer stock operation in regard to shellac trade;

(b) whether this decision has been taken in consultation with the Indian Lac Exporters' Association; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir; in respect of 4 qualities of seedlac only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Heavy Plate Vessel Works

*240. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken for the location of the heavy plate vessels works and heavy structural project to be set up with British assistance under the Third Plan;