

(b) the attitude of the Government of France in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) and (b). The Government of France has already introduced the Ratification Bill in the French Parliament. It is expected to come up for consideration before the French National Assembly during its next session.

**Scarcity of Cement in Orissa**

**\*138. Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is great scarcity of cement in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the requirement of cement in Orissa?

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

(b) Besides the overall shortage of cement, shortage in supply of railway wagons to factories for movement of cement and operational restrictions imposed at times by the Railways have recently affected adversely supplies to Orissa.

(c) The State Government have made arrangements for lifting cement by road. An additional quantity of 10,000 tons has also been released to them during the current quarter (Jan-March, 1962).

**National Instruments Factory, Calcutta**

**\*142. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 369 on the 28th November, 1961 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the National Instruments Factory are being deprived of several facilities which they formerly enjoyed when they were considered as working on 'foreign service';

(b) whether confirmation in existing vacancies of permanent posts is being withheld to them;

(c) whether fresh allotment of quarters to eligible employees has been stopped; and

(d) whether the matter will be reviewed?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Fresh allotment of Central Government quarters to eligible employees is not being done and in lieu thereof they are entitled to House rent allowance.

**Recognition extended to New Regime in Burma**

**\*143. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether our Government have recognized the new Government of Burma; and

(b) if so, under what terms?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. We have informed the Burmese Foreign Office through our Ambassador that we welcome the new regime's policy of neutrality and desire to maintain friendly relations and that we reciprocate these sentiments.

**Cement for Tea Industry**

**\*146. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how far supplies of cement to the Tea Industry fell short of demand during the year 1961;

(b) whether a demand to increase not only the allocations but also actual supplies of cement to the Tea Industry was voiced at the meeting of the Tea Board held in the middle of December 1961 at Shillong; and

(c) if so, what effective measures have been taken to meet the Industry's demand?