

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** Will the hon. Minister state why it is that so many Provinces refused to lift their quotas although there was scarcity in those areas—what were the reasons given?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** If the hon. Member wants me to delve into the realms of conjecture I can do so, but having occupied this position two years back I think he is better able to do it than myself.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** In view of the persistent complaints that the nominee system has given occasion to, will Government consider its total abolition and revert to distribution of cloth through normal trade channels?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid this is a suggestion for action.

**Shri Radhelal Vyas:** May I know how far the import of foreign cloth affected the present position of cloth and whether Government propose to stop the import of foreign cloth?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am not aware of the position envisaged by premise of the question and therefore, I am not able to answer it.

**Pandit L. K. Maitra:** May I ask from the hon. Minister if he is aware that one of those important factors for non-lifting of the cloth by State nominees is that the Government of India issued an order three months back which compelled them to buy their whole cotton at a very high price and the recent price has fallen to such an extent that the previous stock cannot be sold in the market?

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the information that he wants?

**Pandit L. K. Maitra:** I want to know whether the Government is aware that this disparity in the prices is responsible for the non-lifting of cloth?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am sorry, I am not in a position to answer that.

#### EVACUEE PROPERTIES (VERIFICATION)

\*13. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state when the verification of claims in respect of evacuee property will be completed?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** Nearly 7 lakhs out of a total of 9 lakhs property sheets relating to urban and rural houses and plots have been verified since the Claims Organization started verification in December, 1950. Apart from this, there are 1½ lakhs property

sheets relating to agricultural lands which are being processed simultaneously. The exact time required for finishing the balance work cannot be indicated. This will depend upon the readiness of the claimants to produce evidence.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know when the compensation is expected to be paid in respect of verified claims?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** We are trying to work out a scheme. It is difficult for me to fix any date.

**Jonab Amjad Ali:** May I ask if the hon. Minister can give this information State-wise?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** It cannot be given State-wise. The claims have been lumped together and that information is not available.

**Lala Achint Ram:** Do Government propose to increase the number of claims officers in order to complete the work as soon as possible?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Any addition of more claims officers will be a waste of money and now some complex questions are left over and in fact some of the claims officers have not enough of work to do.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** May I know what is the valuation of the claims so far verified?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** It is not in the public interest to disclose that information.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** May I know if the verification of Muslim properties is also proceeding simultaneously?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Yes.

**Shri Hukam Singh:** How far we have progressed in that respect?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I think out of about 2,83,000 families' properties nearly one lakh families' properties have been valued.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if the Government has got any idea whether the Pakistan Government would agree to make good for any of the property left by the refugees there?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** That point can be elicited from the Pakistan Government and not from me.

**Mr. Speaker:** What he means is whether the Government has any idea about it.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I have no idea of what Pakistan Government is going to do.

**Mr. Speaker:** We had better go to the next question.

#### CLOTH PURCHASE SCHEME

\*14. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is having any purchase scheme in regard to Indian Cotton; and

(b) if so, whether that scheme has been put into operation?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the Government is aware that a large quantity of cotton that had arrived in Bombay was found in a damaged condition and whether the Government are involved in the matter of that purchase with the merchants?

**Mr. Speaker:** How does it arise out of this?

**Shri Velayudhan:** The hon. Minister said in reply to the question that the answer is in the affirmative.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The question reads thus: "Whether the Government is having any purchase scheme in regard to Indian cotton" and the cotton that my hon. friend has in mind is in regard to American cotton and if this question has to be answered, I can answer the question.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** What are the centres in which the scheme has started operation and what is the date on which it has begun to function?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** 18 buying agents have been appointed recently and no specific areas were allotted and the sellers are free to choose any of these buying agents.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Does the Government propose to revise the floor rates of cotton for which there has been a tremendous demand from all over India?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The position is that the present prices that are ruling even in the area in which the hon. Member is interested is much higher than the floor rate and perhaps well above the cost of production or somewhere near thereof. There seems to be no immediate provocation for revising it. The matter is being constantly kept under review.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Is it not a fact that whereas the ceiling prices of

cotton had been revised the floor prices have been left where they were and this is working very unjustly to the cotton growers all over India?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The hon. Member will forgive me if I say that this floor and ceiling in regard to cotton is not the floor and ceiling of this House. They relate to two different sets of circumstances altogether.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF WEST BENGAL

\*15. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have approved of the Community Development Project of West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details of the Project;

(c) the machinery set up to implement the Scheme;

(d) what is the estimated cost of the Project and who will bear the expense; and

(e) when the Project will begin to work and how long it will take to complete it?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a) and (b). The Planning Commission have recommended the location of 8 Development Blocks (equivalent to 3 Community Projects, composite type) in West Bengal. The sites chosen are in the districts of Birbhum, Burdwan, Nadia, Midnapore and 24 Parganas. Detailed plans are to be worked out by the State Government more or less on the pattern indicated in the pamphlet "Community Projects—A Draft Outline".

(c) The projects are to be implemented by the State Government, who will have a suitable organisational set-up for the Projects in the State. This will include a Project Executive Officer, or an Assistant Project Officer, in charge of each Development Block.

(d) The estimated cost of a Community Project, composite type is Rs. 111 lakhs for three years. It is intended that the dollar expenditure, about Rs. 15.45 lakhs, would be met out of Fund A under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement, 1952, and that the rupee expenditure be shared between the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal.

(e) Work on the Project is to begin this year and be completed by 1953.