

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.