

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.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know who will be the executive head of these projects referred to by the hon. Minister?

Shri Nanda: The West Bengal Government will execute them. There will be a Development Commissioner there.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The executive Head will be the Central Government.

Shri Nanda: There is an administrator there. The central work is in charge of an administrator who has already been appointed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the community projects in West Bengal will undergo any change due to the revision of the Colombo Plan, discussed at Karachi?

Shri Nanda: This has nothing to do with the Colombo Plan.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Sir, we understand that the community development projects have been undertaken under the terms of the Technical Co-operation Agreement with the U.S.A. Is there any specific term of agreement that the machinery and other things required in connection with the community development projects, will be purchased from the U.S.A. alone?

Shri Nanda: Whatever is suitable for our purposes will be purchased from whichever source we prefer.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: What is the extent and character of American association with the community project scheme?

Shri Nanda: The extent of the association depends on the size and the progress of work. The character of the association is that it is intended to promote the objects of the Agreement.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is there any suggestion of subservience to American control in regard to the operation of these community projects?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir.

Shri Punnoose: Are American experts working the community projects? Is it a fact that the community projects are run under the supervision of American experts?

Shri Nanda: They have not yet been started.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, if Mr. Dey, the Commissioner for these projects, is not an American?

Shri Nanda: I need not answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Let us be clear. I could not hear the answer. What was the answer?

Shri Nanda: I feel it is a question which does not need an answer. Dey, the name, the hon. Member knows is an Indian name.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The name Mr. Dey shows that he is a Bengali.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it may be, the hon. Minister has said that. I am going to the next question.

Shri A. C. Guha: He comes from Assam.

CHANDMARI CAMP

*16. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to refer to his reply to my Starred Question No. 86, dated the 14th February, 1952 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in the middle of the last year 975 families of displaced persons of the Chandmari camp were allotted rehabilitation plots in a nearby village Kanput and the Camp was declared to be closed down with the stoppage of their relief dole;

(b) whether it is a fact that because of an injunction on Government that land was not available for rehabilitation;

(c) whether it is a fact that displaced persons are still physically in the old camp area though the Camp is shown to have been closed down and in official papers the displaced persons are shown not to be there; and

(d) whether any relief is still being given to those displaced persons?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): The administration of the camp is the concern of the West Bengal Government who have been requested to furnish detailed information on the subject. The information when received, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Government of India has got any idea about the suggestions made in this question?

Shri A. P. Jain: I hope the hon. Member is aware that with regard to all the subjects on the Concurrent List, the execution is the responsibility of the State Government. I am doubtful whether a question of this nature could