

share. This is a general basis and will be decided for each State after the schemes are submitted by the States concerned.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether the repayment of the loan will have to be made by any method of recovery from the project areas?

**Shri Hathji:** The question of repayment of the loan will depend on several factors, such as whether the scheme is self-sufficient, what is the nature of the loan etc.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether the State Governments have borne any part of the expenses incurred for the training of the project officers?

**Shri Hathji:** The expenses of the trainees that were sent, were borne by the State Governments themselves.

**Shri N. Sreekantau Nair:** May I know whether there is any principle underlying the allotment, such as the area or the population of the State?

**Shri Hathji:** Not the area of the State, but the conditions and place of the project area.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** How many villages is it proposed to cover by this community project system in the first year out of the 5½ lakhs villages that we have in our country?

**Shri Hathji:** Initially 300 villages for each project, and we have 55 such projects.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether the backwardness of any area will get the first priority in implementing the scheme, instead of the money contribution?

**Shri Bathi:** The areas have already been selected on the recommendation of the State Governments.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** May I know whether the Government of India have laid down any rule that unless the State Governments put forth their share of the money, the advance, the loan or the grants from the Government of India will not be given?

**Shri Hathji:** No such rule has been laid down, but it does mean that the State Governments have to spend their share.

#### COTTON EXPORT AND IMPORT POLICY

\*836. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what were the suggestions of the Central Cotton Advisory Board

regarding the framing of the export and import policy for cotton for the Year 1952-53;

(b) whether it is a fact that the announcement of the cotton export policy last season was very much delayed;

(c) whether it will be possible for Government to curtail imports of foreign cotton next season;

(d) whether Government have considered the necessity for the opening of hedge-trading in cotton; and

(e) if so, what is the decision?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) The Cotton Advisory Board suggestions were:

(i) that import of about 400,000 to 500,000 bales of cotton be allowed during 1952-53; and

(ii) that the cotton export policy for the year 1952-53 be announced by end of November 1952 at the latest. No specific suggestion regarding the quantity to be exported was, however, made by the Board.

(b) In the conditions prevailing last season an earlier announcement was not considered advisable.

(c) According to the present trends imports of foreign cotton during the season 1952-53 are likely to be lower than import during 1951-52 season.

(d) Yes.

(e) It has been decided that the hedge trading will be permitted from about the 15-12-1952.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the price of Pakistan cotton is above world parity? And if so, have the imports from Pakistan been decreased?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** As for the first part of the question, I do not think that at the moment, it is above world parity, but as for the second part, I am unable to answer the question.

#### Short Notice Questions and Answer

##### GOAN POLITICAL PRISONERS TRANSFERRED TO PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 1947 given on the 21st July, 1952 and state whether he has any information regarding the reported transfer by Portuguese authorities of seven Goan poli-

tical prisoners from Lisbon to Angola in Portuguese West Africa and also their confinement in "Cuanze Norte" jail which is popularly known as a "death chamber"?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Seven prisoners were taken by ship from Goa and reached Lisbon on the 18th June 1952. These prisoners were confined in the Aguada Fort in Goa. They are understood to have been removed from there at short notice and were taken from Lisbon to Angola in West Africa on the 9th July 1952. It is understood that they are confined in 'Cuanze Norte' jail in Angola. We have no further information.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a recent report that these prisoners are suffering from 'biliosa', a deadly fever which is prevailing in Angola and that there are no medical facilities being provided in this particular jail which is meant for criminals of a very special description?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We have no means of finding out directly. This is a matter entirely in Portuguese territory there. Informally we tried to find out from the Portuguese Legation here and according to them, these reports are not correct and they are in the best of surroundings.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the fact that these seven political prisoners were non-violent Satyagrahis and have been sentenced to savage terms of imprisonment, is it in the contemplation of Government to move very urgently in the matter of repatriation of these prisoners, if possible?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We are in a difficulty in this matter because they are Portuguese subjects or nationals, and normally a Government does not move in regard to the nationals of another country. I am sure all people in this House will agree that the treatment accorded to these prisoners by the Goan authorities has been exceedingly regrettable and deplorable. But what more steps we can take in this matter to get them repatriated is not clear to me.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the forthright statement recently made by the Prime Minister in regard to French Settlements in India, could we have an assurance from him that in regard to such foreign enclaves as Goa something very specific and very strong is going to be done in the near future?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The statement I made in regard to the French

Settlements applies equally to the Portuguese Settlements. But that does not mean—and I do not wish the House to imagine—that something very sudden and abrupt and big is going to happen.

**Shri Nambiar:** Have the Government enquired as to why these prisoners were transferred to Angola where there are no facilities, and whether these prisoners could not be detained in India?

**Mr. Chairman:** That is beyond what this Government can say.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PROJECT OFFICERS TRAINING AT NILOKHERI

\*835. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the 'officers training' recently organised at Nilokheri and whether any portion thereof will be paid by the State Governments?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reports in certain sections of the Press that dancing parties had been engaged from Delhi for the officers' entertainment during the training period, and huge sums were paid to these parties, which also constitutes an item in the expenditure?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi):** (a) Rs. 8,693-6-0. No part of the expenditure will be met by the State Government.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1534-8-0 was spent on holding a *Mushaira* of poets which included music and some items of various styles of Indian dancing. These programmes were held to give an insight into the culture and traditions of India.

#### LIMESTONES IN KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS

\*837. **Shri Bell Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government are aware that good quality limestones are available in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the State of Assam in large quantities?

(b) What steps have been taken by Government to utilise these limestones in India?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of Pakistan has been utilising these limestones in manufacturing cement?