

(b) the proposed installed capacity of the plant; and

(c) the capital invested in it?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). No foreign firm has been permitted by Government to build blast furnaces in India on its own account; but Government have recently granted an import licence to the Indian Iron and Steel Company to import equipment for building two blast furnaces from the United Kingdom to be set up at Burnpur, in connection with their steel expansion programme which has been approved by Government. These blast furnaces will have a daily capacity of about 1,200 tons each and are estimated to cost about Rs. 2 crores.

COTTON

*1515. **Dr. J. N. Parekh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Indian cotton consumed by textile mills and other sources during the year 1953-54;

(b) the carry-over of the cotton bales during the current season;

(c) the exported quantity of Bengal, Mathia and Dhollera cotton during 1953-54; and

(d) the policy of Government regarding allowing export of short staple and Dhollera cotton?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 29.]

(d) The policy is to allow export of those varieties and such quantities of cotton which are surplus to internal requirements.

CENTRAL LOAN

*1516. **Shri N. A. Borkar:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the total number of applications for the Central loan received by Gov-

ernment from the displaced persons of Madhya-Pradesh;

(b) the number of cases in which Central Loans have been given so far;

(c) the number of cases in which Central Loans have been refused and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of cases still under consideration and the time that will be taken for their final disposal?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) No separate statistics are available with regard to loan applications received by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration from displaced persons in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Upto 31st October, 1954, loans have been sanctioned in favour of 648 applicants.

(c) No separate statistics are being maintained.

(d) On the 31st October, 1954, 28 loan applications were pending disposal from displaced persons in Madhya Pradesh. Out of these 27 loan applications have since been disposed of in November, 1954. Only one application is pending and it is likely to be disposed of in the next meeting of the Administration to be held in January, 1955.

DEVELOPMENT OF HILL DISTRICTS

*1517. **Shrimati Khongmen:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the schemes, if any, submitted by the Assam Government for the development of Autonomous hill districts of Assam under the First Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether the State Government have also submitted any schemes for the development of these districts for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 30.]

(b) No, Sir, not yet.