

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

TEXTILE MILLS IN PUNJAB

*2389. Shri R. P. Garg: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any request from the Punjab Government for assistance in setting up more textile mills in that State; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government of India in this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir. Such a request was received for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan.

(b) Consistent with Government's policy, the State Government have been informed that there would be scope only for spinning units and not for composite mills.

QUARTERS FOR LABOUR (CONSTRUCTION)

*2390. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 135 on the 18th November, 1954 and state:

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken in regard to the question of providing residential quarters for labour employed on construction work in Delhi;

(b) if so, the scheme and programme drawn up in this connection; and

(c) the estimated expenditure and phasing of the plan?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swarn Singh): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the reasons why the Central Government did not see the necessity of providing shelter to the builders of New Delhi?

Sardar Swarn Singh: We do recognise the necessity. That is why the scheme is under consideration.

Shri S. N. Das: How long will it take to finalise this scheme?

Sardar Swarn Singh: I do not think that my reply will be very illuminating if I say that we will try to take a decision as early as possible.

Shri S. N. Das: Why does the hon. Minister think that he cannot give a time? What are the special reasons why so much time is being taken?

Sardar Swarn Singh: The hon. Member may kindly remember that New Delhi is being constructed for the last 40 years. No one ever recognised the necessity. But, now we do feel that there should be some accommodation for these builders. It is for that reason that we have taken under consideration a scheme of this nature.

HANDBLOOM INDUSTRY

*2392. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount given as grant to the Government of Punjab for the development of Handloom Industry during 1954-55?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): Rs. 2,65,394 as grants and Rs. 3,15,000 as loans.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know according to what principle this grant has been distributed?

Shri Kanungo: The principles are utility and practicality of the schemes that have been submitted.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know at what interest these loans are distributed and how many persons have benefited by the receipt of these loans?