

Shri Subodh Hananda: May I know whether Government has introduced the audio-visual method in any labour areas? If so, how far has this method succeeded in removing illiteracy of the labour population?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We had a scheme for audio-visual education by producing 100 films. But we could not proceed with it because of shortage of foreign exchange.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether these two films will be shown at the school which is now training the future administrators in Bombay and whether they will continue to be shown in other centres which are going to be set up later?

Shri L. N. Mishra: They will be shown in all labour areas, as far as possible. If possible, they will be shown at the training centre, Bombay. also

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government propose to offer any financial aid to those labour unions that are independently producing films, as INTUC is doing in Assam. depicting the tea plantations?

Shri L. N. Mishra: That is a suggestion for action.

Aid to Bhutan

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*218. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri Supakar:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri B. C. Prodhhan:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of financial and other assistance given to Bhutan during the Second Plan period so far;

(b) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Bhutan

offered to help in the execution of development works etc. in that State;

(c) if so, the precise nature of help offered; and

(d) whether any formal request has been received from Bhutan in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Apart from the annual subsidy of Rs. 5 lakhs given to Bhutan each year under the Treaty of 1949, the extent of financial and other assistance is decided on a year to year basis. During the years 1956 and 1957 assistance amounting to Rs. 3,22,800 and Rs. 2,45,000 respectively was given to Bhutan to cover expenditure on specific items like the supply of hospital equipment, cement, steel etc

During the current year, a further sum of Rs. 3,60,000 has already been allocated for the supply of equipment, construction materials etc. to Bhutan. It is also proposed to make available a loan of nearly 2.20 lakhs for the establishment of an orange crushing factory.

(b) Generally, yes.

(c) Bhutan was generally assured that should she so desire, India would like to help financially as well as in personnel for the fulfilment of her development plans.

(d) Not so far.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether there are any other development schemes at present under consideration by the Government of India for the development of this territory?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: These are the development schemes suggested by the Bhutan Government. We only give them financial assistance and personnel as and when required. We do not suggest any development schemes to the Bhutan Government.

Shri Hem Barua. May I know whether the proposal to build an all-weather road connecting Bhutan with Rangiya in Assam was discussed by the Prime Minister with the Maharaja there and, if so, what is the outcome of that discussion?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. This was discussed by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Bhutan.

Shri Hem Barua. What was the conclusion?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. I think it is for the Bhutan Government to take up the matter with our government and settle it.

Shri V C Shukla. May I know whether it is a fact that after the Treaty of 1949 our relations with Bhutan were not so friendly and these economic aids are to restore our friendly relations with Bhutan?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. We have no information about the unfriendly relations between us and Bhutan.

Shri Raghunath Singh. May I know whether Bhutan is not very friendly to us?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. We are always very friendly.

Shri Muhammed Elias. May I know the terms and conditions under which these financial help is given?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. There are no conditions.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur. May I know whether any other country has gone to the assistance of Bhutan for its development?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. We have no information.

Unsold Cloth

*219 { **Shri Tangamani.**
Shri S M Banerjee

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the

answer given to Starred Question No 29 on the 11th August, 1968 and state:

(a) to what extent the stock of unsold cloth has been reduced; and

(b) the further steps taken to expedite disposal of this stock?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix II annexure No 1]

Shri Tangamani. From the statement I find that in November this year the stock is less by 38,000 bales when compared to November of last year. Does it mean that the crisis in the textile industry no longer exists?

Shri Kanungo. That is a matter of opinion. The effect of the steps which we are taking are coming into play.

Shri Tangamani. What is the average monthly production of cloth by the Indian textile mills?

Shri Kanungo. It is roughly 450,000 bales.

Shri S M Banerjee. May I know whether a major portion of the unsold stock is of the medium and coarse variety and if so what steps are being taken to export a portion of the unsold stocks to the Asian countries?

Shri Kanungo. Obviously the bulk of the stock must be medium and coarse, because more than 70 per cent of the total production is medium and coarse cloth. As for export incentives, the effect of the notifications issued in the first week of this month must be awaited.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia. In spite of the fact that Government have given reductions in excise and other concessions the quantity of unsold stocks has not gone down. In view of this, may I know whether Government will consider the question of reducing the production just as in the jute mills?