

3000 displaced persons from East Pakistan;

(b) whether a committee of experts have visited the area in the second week of May, 1957; and

(c) whether it has sent any report on the feasibility of the working of the scheme?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (c). A preliminary scheme for the resettlement of about 3,000 displaced families from East Pakistan in the Malkangiri area of Koraput district in Orissa has been sanctioned. The area forms part of the large contiguous tract in the three States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra, the possibilities of development of which are at present being examined by a high-level Committee. The Committee accompanied by technical experts visited this area in the first week of May, 1957. It has still to visit some other areas. The Committee has not yet submitted its recommendations.

Export of Coir Products

***413. Shri Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any positive steps to increase India's export of coir products; and

(b) if so, the results thereof, country-wise?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir. The Coir Board is organising publicity and propaganda for coir and coir goods in foreign countries by participating in Exhibitions and Fairs, and advertisements, in papers. The Government of India are also persuading foreign Governments to permit import of coir products at the time of conclusion of trade agreements.

(b) It is too early to evaluate the results of these steps.

Wage Board for Cotton Textiles

***414. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Board appointed for Cotton Textile Industry has powers to co-opt members; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint Regional Boards?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to appoint Regional Boards but the Wage Board will be free to co-opt members for considering regional matters, whenever necessary.

Export of Manganese and Iron Ores

***415. Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation is exporting mostly high grade manganese ore;

(b) the ratio of high grade ore to low grade of manganese and iron ores exported by the State Trading Corporation since it took up the trade;

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation propose to export manganese and iron ores to a particular country or countries; and

(d) whether there is a danger of concentration on high grade ores resulting in dislocation of business amongst producers and consequent unemployment in the mines?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Exact percentages are not available. Less than 1/3rds of the State Trading Corporation's exports of manganese ore are of the high grade variety. Only small quantities of high grade iron ore are being exported: a very large proportion of exports consists of medium grades. The