

Yarn has been found in the Kashmir State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) It is not a new technique that has been found for manufacture of silk yarn, but a new variety of tassar silk worms of the *Antheraea* type feeding on leaves of zizyphus trees which are available in abundance in the southern region of Jammu and Kashmir State. According to the preliminary investigations made by the State Government, the yarn produced from the new variety of tassar cocoons is superior to tassar yarn produced elsewhere in the country, in tenacity and elasticity. It is, however, likely to take sometime before large scale production can be undertaken.

Bursting of Balloon in Tripura

3415. { Shri Dasaratha Deb:
Shri Halder:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a burst balloon with a light machine bearing inscription of "United State" was found in a village of Telimura (Tripura) on the 11th April, 1958; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (b). A burst balloon with a weather instrument known as "Radiosonde" was found in village Dharmanagar under Telimura P.S. Khowai Sub-division, Tripura on the 6th April, 1958. Three more such instruments have also been found in villages Attapra in Sonamura Sub-division, Sonamura in Sadar Sub-division and Anandabazar in Kailash-ahar Sub-division. These instruments have on them a printed notice to the effect that the instrument is the property of the U.S. Government to whom its return is requested. They

have been manufactured by "RAY SONDE Bendix Friez Instrument Division, Bendix Aviation Corporation, U.S.A." These instruments normally have a tag giving the address to which they have to be returned but in none of the instruments found in Tripura was this tag found intact.

While in the air, the instrument is supposed to operate as a radio transmitter of the atmospheric temperature, pressure and moisture. When the balloon bursts, it comes down to the earth with the help of a parachute.

Khadi and Village Industries in Punjab

3416. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve the Khadi and Village Industries in the State of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India acting through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, and the State Government have adopted various measures for the development of khadi and other-village industries in the Punjab State. These measures mainly concern production and marketing and the training of personnel. The State Government have constituted a statutory Khadi and Village Industries Board which is responsible for the development of these industries in that State. As elsewhere in the country, these industries are assisted financially and otherwise in several ways, the more important of which are as follows:—

(I) Khadi (including Ambar):

(i) Grant of interest-free loans and subsidy to production centres.