

The decline is due to the advent of synthetics and the consumer preference for synthetic products. Another contributory factor is the steep rise in the price of husks.

(c) Various steps are being taken to sustain our exports of coir products.

\*622. [Transferred to the 30th March, 1970.]

**IRRIGATION IN MADHYA PRADESH BY CHAMBAL CANALS**

\*623. SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the area proposed to be irrigated in Madhya Pradesh from the Chambal Canals during the year 1969-70;

(b) the area actually irrigated during the said period; and

(c) what is the estimated loss to the cultivators in case there was a shortfall in the actually irrigated area?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO):** (a) to (c) The area proposed to be irrigated from Chambal Project in Madhya Pradesh during 1969/70 was 2,10,000 acres (which included 25,000 acres of Kharif and 40,000 acres of Mexican wheat). However, on account of difficulties in the running of the Chambal Canals, the area actually irrigated was 1,52,000 acres (which included 25,000 acres of Kharif and 18,000 acres of Mexican wheat). The loss on account of the shortfall in irrigation is being assessed and is roughly estimated as about Rs. 70 lakhs.

**BARCLAYS BANK REVIEW ON UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM**

\*624. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the observations of Barclays Bank review to the effect that tackling of unemployment problem in India and other underdeveloped countries would be a more difficult job than solving the food problem;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TEA GARDENS BY FOREIGN TEA COMPANIES**

\*625. SHRI G. BARBORA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some British Tea Companies are negotiating with some Indian businessmen to sell their tea gardens in Assam;

(b) whether the ownership of some such tea gardens has already been transferred; and

(c) if so, whether any prior approval was obtained from the Government of India in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Only in the case of sale of sterling tea gardens where remittance in foreign currency is involved, the permission of the Reserve Bank of India is obligatory and was obtained. In case no transaction in foreign exchange is involved, sanction of the Reserve Bank of India prior to sale is not necessary.

**†CHANGING OF PLAN PRIORITIES**

\*544. DR SALIG RAM:

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the plan priorities in the public and private sectors in view of the greater control over resources after the nationalisation of banks; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI):** (a) and (b) The estimated increase in bank deposits following bank nationalization would enable banks to contribute in larger measure to the borrowings of the Central and State Governments, borrowings by important Financial Institutions (like I.F.C., I.D.B.I. and

†Transferred from the 24th March, 1970.

A.R.C.), borrowings by State Enterprises and borrowings by F.C.I. and thus help to augment outlays for priority programmes in the public sector. The nationalised banks are also expected to meet the requirements of agriculture, small industry, and small business to a greater extent than hitherto.

†SALE OF MANGANESE ORE TO WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

\*558. SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made arrangements for the sale of one lakh tonnes of manganese ore to West European countries;

(b) if so, whether in addition to this Government have approved eight barter deals with other countries; and

(c) the names of the countries with which these deals have been finalised.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India has entered into sale contracts for export of about 2 lakh tonnes of manganese ore to West European Countries during 1970.

(b) and (c) Government have approved 8 barter proposals for the export of high grade manganese ore to USA and Canada.

†VISIT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF AFRICA

\*588. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:  
SHRI G. A. APPAN:  
SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to send a goodwill mission of Members of Parliament to countries in the Southern region of Africa in May, 1970; and

(b) if so, what is the specific purpose for sending this mission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Transferred from the 24th March, 1970.

#### RETIREMENT AGE IN ARMY

1474. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding the increase of retirement age of various ranks in the army, Navy and the Air Force;

(b) whether it is a fact that the retiring ages were fixed by the British Government before 1947 and that those have not been reviewed since then; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the retirement age is causing great hardships to Defence personnel in case they are to retire before the age of 50?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) The question presumably refers to the recent revision with effect from 1-1-1970 of the minimum age of retirement in respect of Army Officers of and above the rank of Lt. Col. (other than those who are appointed as Lt. Col by time scale) belonging to the Armoured Corps, Infantry, Artillery, Engineers and Signals, in accordance with which they are now eligible to serve upto a minimum age of 50 years. The policy in regard to the minimum age of retirement of Officers in the Navy and the Air Force remains unchanged.

(b) No. The retirement ages of officers in the three services were reviewed on a number of occasions after 1947.

(c) The retiring age is fixed with reference to the requirements of arms and corps and the need for having a cadre of officers and men of appropriate age groups. In determining the terms and conditions of service; this factor is given due consideration.

#### निर्यात का लक्ष्य

1475. ड० भाई महावीर : क्या वंदेशिक-व्यापार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि निर्यात की वार्षिक वृद्धि का लक्ष्य मात प्रतिशत रखा गया है, परन्तु 1969-70 के पहले छः महीनों में यह वृद्धि केवल लगभग 3 प्रतिशत हुई है ;