

(b) whether he gave any concrete assurance to redress the grievances of the goldsmiths; and

(c) if so, what exactly is the nature of the assurances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister told them that he was distressed at any inconvenience caused to them. Obviously he could not deal with them at random and all that he could do was to send the memorandum which they had presented to him to the Finance Minister for his consideration, and this was done. They were, however, informed *inter alia* that the following steps had so far been taken by the Government to rehabilitate the goldsmiths who had been displaced as a result of the enforcement of the Gold Control Order:—

(i) The State Governments had been asked to prepare schemes for the grant of loans and other educational concessions to *bona fide* goldsmiths. Some of the State Governments had already prepared such schemes and others were in the process of doing so.

(ii) Cooperative Societies were being organised for providing work for the displaced goldsmiths, within the framework of the Gold Control Rules, or in other allied occupations.

(iii) At the Central level, employment exchanges had been instructed to register all goldsmiths who were willing to accept alternative employment and highest priority, as in the case of discharged Central Government servants, would be accorded to those who were otherwise qualified and were fit for employment in Government or in other public sector undertakings.

The goldsmiths were also assured that the authorities concerned would

be asked to ensure that the schemes referred to above were implemented as early as possible.

ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES FOR PLANTATION LABOUR

*322. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Minister for Labour, Mr. C. R. Pattabhiraman, declared on May. 23, 1963, that Government would assist construction of houses in plantations for plantation labour; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the assistance which Government will give for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AND FOR PLANNING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): (a) In the course of discussions with representatives of workers and employers concerned with plantations in South India on 20th and 21st May 1963, at Conoor, Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman, Deputy Minister for Labour, while stressing the need for stepping up the pace of construction of houses for plantation labour, stated that assistance would be given by Government in the matter of loans and materials

(b) Assistance in the form of loans is already available to needy planters for construction of workers' houses under the Plantation Labour Housing Scheme. An income tax rebate limited to 20% of the expenditure incurred on housing is also allowed. The question of providing further assistance to the planters in procuring necessary finances and building materials will be considered by Government on receipt of the report of the Working Group on Plantations Labour Housing set up to investigate the matter.

FINANCIAL POWERS OF NAGALAND ADMINISTRATION

*323. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: