

to know how the huge loss would be made up.

**SHRI N. KANUNGO:** It is not a huge loss, because our total production is some hundreds of million pounds. Now, the point is there are several pluckings. If there is a good monsoon and the rains are well-spaced, then the pluckings will be better.

#### INFRINGEMENT OF DISTRICTS TEA EMIGRANT LABOUR ACT IN ASSAM

\*19. **SHRI SURESH J. DESAI:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from the trade unions about the infringement of the Districts Tea Emigrant Labour Act in the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to ameliorate the condition of tea labourers in Assam?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI):** (a) Yes; they were mostly of illicit recruitment and forcible repatriation.

(b) Steps were taken to detect and deal with cases of illicit recruitment.

The complaints of forcible repatriation were investigated but were not established.

**SHRI SURESH J. DESAI:** May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that a large amount is due from the tea planters to the labourers by way of allowances, and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take in this matter?

\* **SHRI ABID ALI:** The amount due will be paid to them.

#### EFFECT OF RESTRICTED IMPORTS ON INDIA'S TRADE

\*20. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the extent to which India's balance of trade position has improved as a result of the policy of restricted imports?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO):** A statement giving India's balance of trade during recent years is placed on the Table of the House. It will be seen that partly as a result of the restrictions on imports imposed from 1957, imports declined with effect from 1958-59; and the gap between imports and exports has also been steadily reduced.

#### STATEMENT

*India's balance of trade (Merchandise)*

(Rs. Crores)

Years	Imports	Exports	Re-Exports	Total Exports	Balance of Trade
1951-52 . . . . .	970.0	728.9	4.1	733.0	- 237.0
1952-53 . . . . .	701.8	572.4	5.0	577.4	- 124.4
1953-54 . . . . .	606.5	525.8	4.8	530.6	- 75.9
1954-55 . . . . .	656.4	588.5	5.1	593.6	- 62.8
1955-56 . . . . .	679.0	590.9	5.7	596.6	- 82.4
1956-57 . . . . .	848.9	614.2	5.6	619.8	- 229.1
1957-58 . . . . .	1034.9	566.6	6.6	573.2	- 461.7
1958-59 . . . . .	902.7	551.0	6.8	557.8	- 344.9
1959-60 . . . . .	868.7	631.6	9.8	641.4	- 227.3

NOTE.—1. Export figures are exclusive of Silver exported to the U.S.A. on Lend Lease Agreement amounting to Rs. 54.52 crores and Rs. 19.48 crores in 1957 and 1958 respectively.

2. Figures are subject to revision.