

CENTRAL COTTON TEXTILE WAGE BOARD

19. **SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ**: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state how many textile mills in various States have agreed to implement the increase in the minimum wages as recommended by the Central Cotton Textile Wage Board?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): Agreements have been reached in a large number of States for implementing the Board's recommendations. Details are not available.

MODERNISATION OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

20. **SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ**: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken by Government to accelerate the pace of modernisation of the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): The Working Group for the Cotton Textile Industry, set up by the NIDC to examine the problem of modernisation of the industry has just submitted its report. It is expected that implementation of its recommendations with regard to matters like liberalisation of financial assistance for rehabilitation, weeding out of old and out-moded units and machinery, provision of the requisite facilities for modernisation would accelerate the pace of modernisation. Final decisions on the Working Group recommendations are likely to be taken shortly.

HOSIERY INDUSTRY

21. **SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ**: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations made by the committee appointed to consider the problems of the hosiery industry; and

(b) whether Government have finalised their plans *vis-a-vis* the recommendations of the said committee and if so, what are they?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

BHOTIA TRADERS IN TIBET

22. **SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ**: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese authorities in Tibet have invited Bhotia traders of Uttar Pradesh border villages to trade in Tibetan markets; and

(b) if so, whether the Bhotia traders have resumed trade as they were doing in the past in view of the assurances given by the Chinese authorities?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) We have no information which would indicate that the Chinese authorities in the Tibet region have actually invited Bhotia traders from U.P. to go to Tibet for trade this year. However, in the past the traders did so in accordance with the customary trading practice and this has the sanction of Article 2 of the Sino-Indian Agreement of 1954.

(b) Reports indicate that a certain number of Bhotia traders have in fact moved into Tibet in accordance with the customary practice.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we pass on to other business, I have to draw the attention of the House to the passing away of one of our Members, Shri Dharam Das. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly, he was a Member of our House from 1952 and