

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): Yes, Sir.

**REDUCTION IN THE COST OF PRODUCTION OF FERRO-MANGANESE**

98. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to ensure the reduction of cost of production of ferro-manganese, if so, what; and

(b) whether it is proposed to export ferro-manganese in place of manganese ore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) and (b) The entire exportable surplus of ferro-manganese up to 31st March, 1961 has been committed under U.S. Wheat Barter deal. Apart from this, steps have been taken to ensure supplies of manganese ore to the Ferro Manganese industry at reasonable rates.

**REVIEW OF THE PRICE OF CEMENT**

99. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to review and revise the entire fixation of price of cement as recommended by the Estimates Committee?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): The Report of the Estimates Committee is at present under examination.

**INSPECTION BY LABOUR INSPECTORS**

100. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of inspections by the Labour Inspectors of Chief Labour Commissioner's Organization has gone down from 1956 onwards; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b) There has been some decrease in the number of inspections during the years 1957 and 1958 in comparison with the inspections in 1956. Number of inspections during the year 1959 was, however, 28,653 against the corresponding figure of 25,521 during the year 1958.

**WOMEN WELFARE OFFICERS**

101. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed Women Welfare Officers in factories, mines and plantations having a large number of women workers; and

(b) if so, what is their number?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

**STATEMENT**

The position in respect of appointment of Women Welfare Officers by Government in factories, mines and plantations is given below:—

*Factories.*—There are four Women Welfare Officers in the Central Government Undertakings. Information regarding the number of Women Welfare Officers in State Government Undertakings is not available.

*Mines.*—About one hundred Women Welfare Officers have been appointed under the Coal and Mica Mines Labour Welfare Funds.

*Plantations.*—Section 18 of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 which provides for appointment of Welfare Officers in plantations has not yet been enforced as no rules have yet been framed thereunder. It may be stated that there are no plantations under the control of the Central Government.