(०) मति उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उलट ‘हो’ हो, तो क्या सरकार ने इन गाँवों में कोई कायमी ठहरायी की है?

*319. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India, Delhi, of the 28th December, 1959, that the Secretary of the Chief Khalsa Dewan, has requested the Prime Minister to approach the Government of Pakistan for the exchange of historic Gurdwaras situated on the border of Pakistan in lieu of some other territory; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have taken any action in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government do not favour seeking modifications in the Indo-Pak border fixed under the Radcliffe Award. However, the matter has been referred to the Government of Punjab, whose reply is awaited.

320. SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI:

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government against reduction in the price of paper; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the question?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. I have dealt with this matter in my answer to Starred Question No. 322. With your permission Sir, I would like to club both the questions together.

SCARCITY CONDITIONS AND RISE IN THE PRICE OF PAPER

*322. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AKO INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Babubhai Chinai.
(a) whether Government are aware of the scarcity conditions created on account of restrictions imposed on the import of paper and the unusually high prices charged from the ultimate consumers; and

(b) what positive steps are being taken by Government to ensure equitable distribution as well as fair prices being charged at the consumers' end?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The report of the Tariff Commission and the Government Resolution, published on 5th December, 1959 accepting the Commission's recommendations, were placed on the Table of the House on 7th December, 1959. The prices recommended by the Commission have been made effective from 1st January, 1960.

Besides, the State Trading Corporation are also arranging to import 25,000 tons of paper shortly. If necessary further quantities will also be imported by State Trading Corporation.

These measures have begun to show results and prices of paper in the market are steadily coming down.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Is it a fact that the Government have said that there should be no difference in price between white printing paper and coloured printing paper and as a result, the paper manufacturers are not manufacturing any coloured paper now? If so, what does the Government propose to do?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I would draw the hon. Member's attention to the Tariff Commission's report in which all categories have been subdivided. They have almost 26 categories of which minimum prices are fixed.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: I asked about the absence of coloured paper.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We have a separate item for that.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: The Minister has stated that the prices are going down since the decisions have been implemented. What is the percentage of such reduction in price?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There are many varieties but broadly speaking the complaints and the observations which we are getting from the market survey reports have been re-tallied in the last few weeks and the prices of all categories practically are going down.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAiK: What is the normal consumption of paper in the country and to what extent the import of 25,000 tons will meet the requirements?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The broad estimates are that we require about 3.25,000 tons of paper. Last year's production was 2,96,000. We are going to import 25,000 tons and we intend, if necessary, to import more, so as to have as much equitable distribution as possible to meet the demand.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAiK: Is it not a fact that with the increase of our educational facilities to the students and in other spheres also, the consumption of paper has increased to a greater extent than the import possibilities and if so, to what extent that extra requirement will be met either by imports or by increase in production?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As the hon. Member points out, naturally, as the literacy grows, we must have more and more quantities of paper. That is why in the Third Plan the
targets are being doubled from 3,50,000 tons to almost 7,00,000 tons and maybe, we may go up to 8,00,000 tons or 9,00,000 tons. The House will be glad to know that we have almost licensed for a capacity of 8,45,000 tons of which more than 5,00,000 tons have been covered by import licences.

321. [The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2096-97 infra.]

322. [For answer, vide cols. 2076—79 supra.]

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JAPANESE TEAM OF EXPERTS ON SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES.

323. SHRI MAHESWAR NAiK: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the financial implications involved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Japanese team of experts on small scale industries;

(b) if so, what is the extent of finances required; and

(c) what are the sources from which the finances are expected to be raised and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c). The report of the Japanese Delegation on Cottage and Small Industries is under consideration.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAiK: May I know whether the team of Japanese Experts has recommended the establishment of a low shaft furnace for extraction of iron from low-grade iron ore?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The particular team was meant for the small-scale industries and they have made no specific recommendation about any particular industry but all the industries have been taken into account, which could be amenable to a small-scale factory in which the smelting of iron ore is a practical possibility.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAiK: May I know whether there is any such proposal about a process for extracting iron from low-grade iron ore by means of such low-shaft furnaces?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As the House may already be aware these are not small-scale centres but medium-scale ones which cost about Rs. 40 lakhs, for those furnaces at Orissa and at Jamshedpur had an investment of about Rs. 40 lakhs each. And it is quite possible to have low-shaft furnaces as also rotary furnaces in medium-scale industries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it a fact that another delegation from India went to Japan to study the same problem and that delegation was led by Shri Bhupati Mazumdar, Minister, West Bengal and whether they went there with any specific objective in view?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It was a different delegation which the hon. Member refers to now. My colleague Mr. Mazumdar went with a delegation for establishing a proto-type centre in Howrah with Indo-Japanese collaboration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Mr. Bhupati Mazumdar was making statements to the effect that he went there to study the subject of small-scale industries with a view to coming to some kind of an agreement, quite apart from that particular agreement that the hon. Minister referred to just now?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Well, when anyone goes to a foreign country, he goes there with an open mind and while in Japan naturally he must have studied many other things also and that will be of benefit to West Bengal and also to the whole of India.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the State Government