

form an Asian Common Market? May I know, Sir, whether Government have examined that proposal and, if so, what is the Government's reaction to that?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Except the Chambers of Commerce, who met in Cairo, no Government has made such a proposal. The Chambers of Commerce had one item on the agenda, but we have not been approached by anybody on this subject.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that the United Nations surveys, especially the Economic Survey, published from Geneva has pointed out that as far as the major items of Indian export going to the West in those countries are concerned, there has been a steady decline in the trade affecting Indian economy adversely?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir. I do not think there has been a steady decline.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Minister stated in his reply that so far the European Common Market has not shown any adverse effect on India's export trade. When this scheme was started, I am sure, the Government examined as to what

effect it would have on our export trade. May I know, Sir, whether it is likely to have an adverse effect or it will have no effect at all from their point of view?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: On several commodities it is likely to have an adverse effect.

SUBSIDY TO HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

*535. SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy that has been given to the handloom industry in each financial year since the subsidy came to be granted:

(b) the total amount actually disbursed and utilised; and

(c) the total sale value of the handloom cloth which got the benefit of the subsidy?

THE MINISTER (OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Information is not available.

STATEMENT

Rebate on Sales of Handloom Cloth: sanctions and expenditure

Year	Amount sanctioned	Expenditure reported by States
	Rs.	Rs.
1953-54	84,71,950	3,48,164.18
1954-55	4,18,490	54,61,192.89
1955-56	92,98,126	1,69,08,063.30
1956-57	2,30,25,243	2,23,23,991.78
1957-58	2,13,18,879	2,59,35,499.04
1958-59	* 1,72,69,000	3,20,68,382.54
TOTAL	7,98,01,688	10,30,45,293.73

*The amount of Rs. 1,72,69,000 sanctioned during 1958-59 was intended only to meet the arrear claims pending with State Governments up to 31st March 1958. No separate amount for expenditure on rebate was sanctioned for 1958-59 to meet the expenditure on the scheme incurred by State Governments in 1959-59 as this was included in the total grant assistance sanctioned to various State Governments of Rs. 2,58,28,000.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: May I know whether any representation has been made to the Government to increase this subsidy or whether the Government has any proposal to reduce or increase this subsidy?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Always representations are to increase, the aids and also subsidies. The present policy of the Government is to continue the present subsidy for some time. Ultimately, it may, be necessary to reduce the rebates with the consent of the State Governments.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: The statement which has been given to us states that from 1953 to 1959 various amounts have been sanctioned. About these, may I know whether they have been fully utilized every year or not?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes, they are mostly utilized. The unutilized amounts are very little. In fact there are some arrears.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: To what extent any part of the subsidy is passed on to the consumer as rebate?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes, most of the subsidy is passed on as rebate to the consumer.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it a fact that there has been some reduction in the rebates to the consumers?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REHABILITATION MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HELD AT SRINAGAR

*536. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the main recommendations of the Re-

habilitation Ministers' Conference which was held at Srinagar in June-July, 1959?

SHRI DEPUTY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. NASKAR) : A Conference of Rehabilitation Ministers was held at Srinagar in the last week of June, 1959. This conference was held mainly to consider the residual problems relating to the rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan and to plan out the completion of that task, if possible, by the end of the current financial year. No far-reaching decisions were thus required to be taken at the conference. Its deliberations consisted primarily of the consideration of the residuary problems of the Ministry and steps to be taken to expedite their disposal and to remove bottlenecks or obstacles in the process.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: , May I know whether the question of winding up the Rehabilitation Departments in most of the States came before the conference?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: Yes, they wanted that this Ministry should continue for some time more.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Was it the opinion that it should continue in all the States?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: The best way to reply to this question would be to look at the residuary work that we have. According to me and the Ministers who were there,, the residuary work is not much. So, there can be no question of keeping this Ministry alive because .previously we were dealing with housing, loans, lands and all these things. Practically, all that programme has been completed except the programme of payment of compensation. Out of about 4,85,000 claims, over 4,00,000