

MERGER OF REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE HANDLOOM AND MILL SECTOR

***354. SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge the regional offices of the handloom and mill sector from June, 1959;

(b) whether any existing offices are to be abolished as a result of the proposed merger; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the amalgamation?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The integration of the regional offices of the Textile Commissioner and the Handloom Board is intended to ensure a better appreciation of and attention to the problems of the industry, both in the mill-sector and handloom sector, by an adequately staffed regional directorate headed by a Director. The re-organisation is also intended to foster the development of both the sectors on mutually-complementary lines.

I may add that the Madras Office is not likely to be amalgamated soon.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government are in a position to assure this House that this amalgamation will not work to the disadvantage of the cause of handloom?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is intended to give better impetus to co-ordination and improvement.

PAKISTAN'S REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO JAIN PILGRIMS TO VISIT GUJRANWALA

***355. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan refused per-

mission to the Jain pilgrims to visit Gujranwala to celebrate the birth anniversary of Acharya Atmanand Ji, a celebrated Jain divine, in the month of April, 1959;

(b) if so, what are the reasons given by the Government of Pakistan for the refusal; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to get permission for such pilgrimage in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) to (c). While stating that they had no objection to the pilgrimage, the Government of Pakistan suggested postponement of the visit till after 'idulfitr' and 'Baisakhi' which fell about this time. At the suggestion of the pilgrim party, the Pakistan authorities are being requested to provide facilities for a pilgrimage from 13th to 15th June, 1959, being the occasion of the death anniversary of Guru Shri Atmaram Ji.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know how many pilgrims were proceeding to Gujranwala and when they are allowed next to go there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Fifty Jain pilgrims.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a regular feature every year that the pilgrims from India seek permission to go over there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: That is the normal procedure through diplomatic channels.

PLOTS IN CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI

***356. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area and the number of plots leased out, sold or otherwise disposed of in Chanakyapuri;

(b) what was the total income derived from the disposal of these plots and