

to state whether any efforts were made recently to reach an agreement between tea interests in India and Ceylon on tea production and exports? If so,

(a) what was the result of the talks held in Colombo recently; and

(b) what are the salient points of those talks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). A delegation representing the Indian Consultative Committee of Tea Producing Associations visited Ceylon in October 1958 in an informal and non-official capacity and held preliminary discussions with the Ceylon planting interests for devising a formula for the revival of the International Tea Agreement. We are informed that the following principles were agreed on at the Colombo Conference:—

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(1) The Agreement should be renewed and should date from April 1st, 1955, the day following that on which the original Agreement lapsed.

(2) Standard exports shall for the purpose of writing initial figures into the agreement be calculated precisely as in the past, *i.e.*, the best exports in any one of the three years preceding the date from which the Agreement shall be deemed to have been renewed.

ACCIDENT IN NORTH KUJAMA COLLIERY

*124. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an accident in North Kujama Colliery (Jharia), on the 9th October, 1958;

(b) if so, what was the nature and cause of the accident; and

(c) the number of persons killed or wounded in the accident?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) Yes.

(b) Extraction of a pillar in the bottom section of a seam lying at a depth of about 175 feet below the surface was going on when the roof fell in the top section goaf. This destroyed the parting between the top and the bottom sections and all the eight persons working in the bottom sections were entrapped.

(c) Seven were killed and one was rescued. No one else was injured.

ABROGATION OF BAGGAGE RULES BY PAKISTAN

*125. SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the baggage rules agreed to between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan under Nehru-Liaquat Pact for travel between the two countries have been unilaterally abrogated by the present military administration in East Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is its effect upon trade and travel between the two countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*126. [Postponed to the 1st December, 1958.]

EXPORT OF ONIONS

26. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to release a quota of onions for export; and

(b) if so, what are the conditions for issuing of licences?