

SfciM ANIL K. CHANDA: The General Manager is Indian; the Manager is Indian; the Deputy Manager is Indian; the Food and Beverage Manager is Swiss; the Reception Manager is Swiss; the Assistant Manager is Indian.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether some Indians have been sent to France for hotel training and, if so, how many have been sent from the Ashoka Hotel?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: To my knowledge, nobody has gone from Ashoka Hotel.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: What is the hotel experience of the General Manager and the Manager?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: The General Manager is an officer of the the Government. He is on loan from Government. He was in the Supply Department. The Manager has been in the hotel line all his life.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Has he no hotel experience at all?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: The General Manager has not served in any hotel before.

REGIONAL INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

*420. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 191 in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th August, 1957, and state:

(a) whether the Regional Institute of Technology for small scale industries set up at Calcutta for the Eastern Region has taken up study of the problems for the development of small scale industries in Assam;

(b) whether model schemes for the guidance of small industrialists have been prepared; and

(c) whether any research work has been taken up for technological study of spinning jute as a cottage industry

and spinning Endi Silk with power as a cottage industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Economic Investigation Unit attached to the Regional Institute, Calcutta, has taken up the study of the problems of development of small-scale industries in all the States of the Eastern Region including Assam.

(b) Yes, S'r.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Is it not a fact that there has been no research done in jute and Endi Silk cocoons?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As far as the Regional Institute in the Eastern Region is concerned, the jute and the silk industries do not come within their orbit. The jute industry is looked after by the Textile Commissioner and the silk industry by the Silk Board.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: May I know what is the nature of guidance given to the small scale industrialists?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The nature of the guidance is: They give technical data for any industry. Also they advise on the supply of machinery, what are the raw materials and marketing conditions in that area.

*421 to *423. [For answers, vide cols. 2322-23 infra.]

TOUR OF THE DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS BY THE SIX-MEMBER TEAM OF OFFICERS

*323: SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the assignments of the six-member team of officers deputed by Government of India to tour the drought-affected areas of the country;

†Transferred from the 5th December 1957.

(b) what different places have so far been visited by the team; and

(c) what assessment, if any, has been made by the team regarding the effects of the drought on the economic life of the people in the affected areas and the country as a whole?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c). Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the report of the team made available to the Parliament on 3rd December, 1957.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is a fact that the team's estimate of loss of crop on account of drought push the figures to a much lower level than the estimates of the State Governments?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: How am I to give an opinion on the report of a team? In fact we had sent this team to make a rough assessment of the drought conditions prevailing in these States.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the estimate of the team and the estimates of the State Governments are at variance?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: I don't have the later estimates of the State Governments. But in fact the team consulted the State Governments in the first instance and then, along with the officers of the State Government they made certain assessments. I don't have any idea about the variance.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What are the different places they actually visited?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: They visited three or four States and to indicate all the places to which they went would be somewhat difficult

PURCHASE OF TOBACCO FROM U.S.A.

♦402. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK (ON BEHALF OF SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO):

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India has agreed to purchase a large quantity of tobacco from the United States of America; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity to be purchased and what is the price at which it is to be purchased?

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

(b) A quantity of 6 million lbs. (approximately) of unmanufactured tobacco will be purchased (during the three years ending 30th June 1959) by the Indian importers through their agents in America from the open market at the prices prevailing at the time of actual purchase. The estimated price of 6 million lbs. is approximately 6 million dollars.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know for what purpose the tobacco purchased from the United States is put in India?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is mostly used for cigarettes and cigars.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Indian production of tobacco is not sufficient for the internal consumption?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: These varieties are not enough.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: What steps Government are taking to improve the quality of indigenous tobacco?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Efforts are being made for the last 10 years through the Central Tobacco Committee and the quality has considerably improved. Virginia cigarette and cigar tobacco of high quality is being increasingly produced.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: How much time will it take to bring it to the quality that we are importing from foreign countries?