

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNA-MACHARI) :
(a) Sixty-three.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 167.]

AMOUNT SPENT ON SALT MINES AT MANDI

296. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state how much money has so far been spent from the funds allotted in the First Five Year Plan for the improvement of the existing salt mines at Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)?-

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : Rs. 1,22,000 approximately.

WOOLLEN MILL AT MANDI

297. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the proposal for a woollen mill at Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) provided for in the first Five Year Plan has been abandoned; if so, why? j

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNA MACHARI) :
No, Sir.

U.S. FILM "THE PURPLE PLAIN"

298. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news column in the *Indian Express* (Delhi Edition dated 15th September 1954) under the heading "U. S. Film Slanders Calcutta";

(b) whether it is a fact that the American film entitled "The Purple i Plain" contains references to the city of Calcutta in offensive terms as stated in that news column; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Yes. The film was produced in United Kingdom and not in the United States.

(b) A comic missionary character in the film refers to the city as "foul benighted and Godless".

(c) The film has just been released and given a Press showing in London. The matter has been taken up with the High Commissioner for India in London and his report is awaited.

299. [Withdrawn.]

DEMAND OF ILLEGAL GRATIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL OF STATIONERY OFFICE; CALCUTTA

300. SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint was received in December 1953 from a firm in Calcutta supplying materials to the stationery office, Calcutta about the demand of illegal gratification by an official of that stationery office; and

(b) if so, what action has so far been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes.

(b) An inquiry was made by the Special Police Establishment and their report is under consideration.

ENGINEERS' COMMITTEE OF CO-ORDINATION

301. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Committee of Co-ordination consisting of Engineers has met since its constitution;

(b) what work has so far been done by the Committee at its meetings; and

(c) what decisions have been taken by Government on the conclusions arrived at by that Committee?