

of the fact that they are paid at different rates which are not sufficient to satisfy their requirements?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Under the Act, Sir, there is no provision empowering the Central Government to make such a provision, but the wages are determined in different places according to the different circumstances prevailing there.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Since the Central Government takes much interest in the development of this important industry of electricity, is it not wise on the part of the Government to standardise the wages of these employees, Sir?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have replied to that question in my earlier answer.

UNEMPLOYMENT SCHEMES OF U.P. GOVERNMENT

*550. **SHRI N. C. SEKHAR:** Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have approached the Government of India for aid in implementing their schemes for combating unemployment in that State;

(b) if so, what are the details of these schemes;

(c) how many unemployed persons are expected to be provided with employment under these schemes; and

(d) what aid, if any, has so far been granted by the Government of India to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 161.]

(d) The Central Government has allotted a grant of Rs. 125 lakhs to U.P. in the current Plan period towards expenditure on certain specific

road schemes of inter-state or economic importance. Some of these schemes form part of the above unemployment programme. In addition to this equipment costing 24.3 lakhs is expected to be received for industrial and technical institutions under the Colombo Plan.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Does this scheme cover only the industrial labour or other labour also?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The scheme covers all sorts of labour.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh made this request *suo motu*, or the Government of India asked the various State Governments to submit their schemes?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The Government of India had asked the State Governments to send their schemes.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: All the State Governments?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know if the other State Governments have also been granted any such help?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I cannot say exactly what help has been granted. But we have received schemes from different States.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The question is whether the Government of India have made such grants. I do not insist on knowing the amount or the figure, but I should like to know whether the Government of India have granted such sums to other State Governments as well.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I think the Government of India have granted some sums.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: If so, may I know which are those States?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: That information is not readily available with me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can put a separate question about Orissa.

QUANTUM OF TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN

*551. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of trade with Afghanistan is deteriorating; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the deterioration?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) and (b). Comparing the statistics of trade for the year 1953-54 with those of 1952-53 there is a slight fall in the value of trade between India and Afghanistan. The main reasons for this decline are a fall in the price of Indian cotton textiles and a fall in the price of Afghan dry fruits.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, may I know if any representative of the India Government has, in the recent past, contacted the Indian businessmen settled in Afghanistan to know the exact position?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The position in regard to what?

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Regarding trade between India and Afghanistan.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: We have our Embassy in Afghanistan, and the duty of that Embassy is to keep us informed of anything happening there—among other matters, also trade matters—but I cannot say specifically whether a particular visit has been made in order to elicit the information required.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India have received any report from the Indian Embassy about the deterioration in trade?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: As I said, Sir, the deterioration in trade is not something very drastic. Our average trade is more or less

maintained over the period of years. So there is no cause for any specific report. We do receive reports generally about certain disabilities in the matter of trade from both, from the Indian side and from the Afghanistan side.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Indian businessmen in Afghanistan have a feeling of frustration, and they think that they have to face a future which will be very bleak, in view of the seizure of the market by the Japanese goods?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Since the main portion of our business with Afghanistan happens to be in respect of cotton textile goods, it is inevitable that there should be some competition from Japan which is able to quote lower prices for certain types of goods. If market conditions induce frustration, I am afraid there is nothing that could be done about it.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Can we not try to adjust our duties to see that we do not lose our market in Afghanistan?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Our export duties are adjusted from time to time to see that we do not lose any markets.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware that formerly we used to have a Commercial Attache in our Embassy in Afghanistan and that now we have none? It appears that the Government of India remains quite uninformed of the real position.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am afraid, Sir, that my hon. friend's information with regard to the information that the Government of India gets is not accurate. We do get information from our Embassy in Afghanistan, and I do not see we have suffered to any extent by lack of an Attache. I am not able to say whether we have an Attache or not, but I do not think we have suffered by reason of any temporary changes taking place in our Embassy in Afghanistan.