

(e) If the targets set by Planning Commission of increased production are reached, the country should be self-sufficient by the end of the period of their Plan.

REORGANISATION OF COTTAGE AND HANDLOOM BODIES

39. PROF. G. RANGA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the States where the Cottage Industries Boards and Handloom Committees were organised and reorganised;

(b) whether any tenure was ever fixed for these bodies;

(c) what principles were followed in choosing their personnel reducing the number of their members and selecting or dropping members;

(d) whether any attempts have ever been made or proposed to be made to obtain the services of representatives of such organisations as the All India Handloom Weavers Congress and All India Industries Organisation ;

(e) what funds were placed at the disposal of these bodies to be utilised for the development of cottage industries and handloom industry;

(f) whether any annual allocations are made or are proposed to be made ; and

(g) whether any reconstitution of these bodies is proposed to be made and if so, when and in what manner ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) to (g). I regret I am unable to furnish any information with regard to the Cottage Industries Boards and Handloom Committees, as these are organisations of State Governments, not subject to Central control. Information on the lines required will be called for but it is difficult to say with any degree of precision when the Government of India will have all the information in its possession.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD

40. PROF. G. RANGA : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what States have so far taken definite steps to form the Agricultural Wages Boards;

(b) which of them have so far fixed the wages of agricultural workers;

(c) what steps are being taken by such States to select the representatives of labour and peasants who have to engage labour; and

(d) what progress has been made in the enquiry into Agricultural Wages in different States and by what time is this enquiry expected to be completed ?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. IV. GIRI) : (a) and (c). There is no provision in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for the setting up of Agricultural Wages Boards, but under section 7 thereof it is necessary to set up in each State an Advisory Board for co-ordinating the work of committees, sub-committees, advisory committees and sub-committees appointed under sections 5 and 6 and for advising the appropriate Government generally in the matter of fixation and revision of minimum rates of wages. Complete information in regard to Advisory Boards set up by State Governments is not available. The required information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) Under the Minimum Wages Act 1948, agricultural minimum wages have been fixed in the States of Punjab, Delhi, Ajmer and Kutch and in the Patna district of Bihar.

(d) The field work connected with the enquiry has been completed. Eight preliminary reports on the conditions of agricultural workers have also been published. The report relating to the first stage of the enquiry, viz., the General Village Survey, is under print, while that in respect of the second stage—the General Family

Survey—is under preparation. Intensive Family Schedules are being tabulated and it is expected that the report on the third stage—the Intensive Family Survey—will be completed in the beginning of 1953.

KAKINADA—MADRAS RAILWAY LINE

41. SHRI P. V. NARAYANA : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state how the matter of bringing Kakinada (Madras State) on the Main Calcutta—Madras Railway Line stands at present ?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) : The question of bringing Kakinada on the Main Calcutta—Madras Railway Line has been referred to the Central Board of Transport and their decision is awaited.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

42. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many Railway accidents took place during the year 1951-52 ;

(b) how many persons were killed ; and

(c) what precautions have been taken till so far ?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) : (a) 16 accidents to trains carrying passengers attended with loss of human life or grievous hurt or damage to property to the value of approximately Rs. 20,000 or over in each.

(b) 46 persons were killed.

(c) Vigorous steps are taken to prevent accidents as far as possible. They include effective disciplinary action against Railway staff held responsible for accidents, frequent and intensive inspections of permanent way, rolling stock, etc., provision and improvement of mechanical appliances designed

to minimise failures of the human element, systematic examination of the working of stations, more intensive patrolling as and when warranted of selected sections of the Railway line in consultation and collaboration with State Governments, provision of certain mechanical devices in the structure of the permanent way so as to make tempering with the track difficult, grant of special priority for works required to enhance the margin of safety and generally improving operating conditions.

» PROCUREMENT PRICE OF PADDY IN MADRAS

43. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procurement price of paddy in Madras State is low when compared to the other deficit States in Indian Union;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI) : (a) No, except in comparison with Travancore-Cochin.

(b) There is no strict parity in the procurement prices of paddy in deficit States, the variation being due to different factors such as prevailing market prices, general trend of other essential commodities and competing crops, and the general crop condition.

PRODUCTION OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

44. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state whether the Sulphate of Ammonia produced by the Sindri Factory costs more in Madras city when compared to the cost of the imported stuff ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : Yes. Sulphate of Ammonia produced in the