

(d) Are Government aware that it is one of the main sources of income for Adivasis of Rajasthan?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar):** It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to Sterculia 'gum'. The answer has been framed accordingly.

(a) Government have no information.

(b) Countries to which exports are made are not shown in the Accounts relating to the Foreign Sea and Air Borne Trade and Navigation of India.

(c) It is used as a suspending agent and as a stabiliser for emulsions. It is not being used wholly in the country because another product, namely, 'Tragacanth' gum is preferred whenever available and Sterculia 'gum' is used only as an alternative.

(d) Government have no information.

#### NITRO-CELLULOSE LANQUERS AND TITANIUM-DIOXIDE

**240. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of nitro-cellulose lanquers and titanium-dioxide in the new plants put up in 1951; and

(b) whether both the plants worked to their full capacity during 1952?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a)—

	1951	1952
Nitro-cellulose lanquers and ancillaries	30,397 gallons	64,142 gallons (January to October.)
Titanium Dioxide	152 tons	223 tons* (January to June.)

\* The production of Titanium Dioxide stopped from the 23rd June 1952.

(b) No, Sir.

#### RUBBER

**241. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what was the price rate of raw rubber in the year 1947 and what was the price upto 20th May, 1952?

(b) What has been the increase in the cost of production during the last three years and how has it affected the production of raw rubber?

(c) What has been the increase in the price level in the world during the last year and how has that increase been allowed to be shared by the growers of rubber in India?

(d) What steps are being taken to rehabilitate the rubber growers in our country?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A statement showing the cost of production as determined by the Government Cost Accounts Officer in 1948, the Indian Tariff Board in 1951 and the Tariff Commission in 1952, and also showing the production of raw rubber during the years 1948 to 1952, is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A statement showing the Singapore prices of raw rubber during the period June 1951 to October 1952 is laid on the Table of the House. It will be observed that world prices have actually come down during this period.

[For (a) to (c). See Appendix IV, annexure No. 29]

(d) Government ensures that the growers get for their produce a fair price and an assured market inside the country. In addition to affording this security to the growers the cost of production of rubber, on which internal prices are based, includes a provision for rehabilitation of the rubber estates. Government have also in mind a development scheme to aid the expansion of the industry.

#### INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME IN WEST BENGAL

**242. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many houses for industrial labour are going to be constructed in the current year in the industrial areas of West Bengal;

(b) how the Rs. 9 crore subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme of Government will help expediting the construction;

(c) the number of houses constructed for tea labour in West Bengal in 1951-52 and the number of those that are proposed to be constructed in 1952-53; and

(d) whether the tea planters have received any help from the Government of India in the form of loans to expedite housing construction?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). The West Bengal Government have come up to the Government of India with a proposal for the grant of subsidy and loan, under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme, to construct at Calcutta, during the current year:

- (i) 750 tenements through their construction Board; and  
 (ii) 68 tenements through the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

(c) The West Bengal Government have not availed themselves of financial aid from the Central Government either in 1951-52 under the Ministry of Labour Industrial Housing Scheme or in 1952-53 under the present scheme for the construction of houses for tea labour. According to an agreement reached at the third session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations, however, some of the Tea Plantations Employers' Associations, have undertaken to construct houses for their labour.

(d) The tea planters have not so far applied to the Central Government for aid to house such of their labour as may be covered by the Central Government Scheme.

#### STORES AND EQUIPMENT

243. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements (or provisions) have been made for protecting and preserving the stores, material and equipment held by the Ministry of Production against loss through pilferage or damage through weather and other similar natural factors;

(b) what arrangements (or provisions) have been made for checking these stores, material and equipment on receipt as regards the quality and quantity or number and for internal audit, from time to time, of the same;

(c) whether any cases have been discovered, in any of the last five years, or reported by the Public Accounts Committee, of loss through theft or damage to these stores, material and equipment by culpable negligence of the staff appointed for the receipt and custody of the same, or of disparity between the order (indent) and actual receipt of any stores, material and equipment; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in respect of each of these cases?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Stores, materials and equipment are kept in weather proof stores and shops, shelves, closed cupboards, almirahs, iron safes and in other properly enclosed accommodation e.g. fenced and walled compounds, depending on the nature of the stores and equipment. Maintenance staff are employed for periodical and routine oiling, greasing and other anticorrosive treatments. Special watch and ward  
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staff keep watch over the stores, materials and equipment day and night. There is also a system of check at the gates. Nothing can be taken inside or outside without authorised gate-passes.

(b) All materials, on receipt, are first of all inspected by technical inspection Staff, and no material is taken into stock until certified as acceptable by the Inspectorate. The inspection covers both qualitative and quantitative check. At the time of bringing the stores on charge, the quantities are again checked by the store-holder.

Materials in stock are subjected to continuous physical verification by stock verifiers independent of the authorities responsible for the care and custody of stock. The Bin cards showing quantity balances, maintained by the stores Section are subject to control by stores Ledgers independently maintained by the Accounts Section and the staff of the Audit Department carry out systematic stores audit.

(c) and (d). There has been no case of loss through theft or damage by culpable negligence of the staff. A number of cases of thefts and shortages of stores have occurred while in railway transit. These have been reported to the railways and necessary claims lodged with them. There have also been two cases of shortage of stores in certain collieries. The total loss amounted to Rs. 15,000 approximately. The concerned stores staff were held responsible for the loss and suitable disciplinary action has been or is being taken against them.

#### FERTILISER PRODUCTION AT SINDRI

244. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the total quantity of fertilisers produced at Sindri in the months of June, July and August, 1952?

(b) Was the total production consumed in India?

(c) Was the out-put of the above three months considered sufficient to meet the requirements of the people during this rainy season?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) 35,553 tons.

(b) I am not in a position to say that the above quantity was actually consumed during the period referred to but I may state that the despatches against payment from Sindri during the period in question amounted to 44,060 tons.

(c) No.

#### CONTAI SALT FACTORY

245. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state how much salt is expected to be