

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question? This is only about increase in the rate of cess.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: It concerns the Labour Welfare Fund.

Mr. Speaker: May be. The question is whether there is a proposal to increase the rate of cess or not. The question whether other amenities will be provided or not does not arise.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Water supply is one of the amenities provided.

Mr. Speaker: We cannot go into details. The only question, as I said, is whether the rate is to be increased or not.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the cess on despatches generally goes to the Rescue Station Fund? If so, I want to know whether any portion of it will go also to the Rescue Station Fund.

Shri L. N. Mishra: That is a separate thing. So far as this is concerned, part of it goes to the general welfare fund and part of it to housing schemes. Out of the increased cess also, part will go to the general welfare fund and part to housing and water supply.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the percentage?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: What was the purpose of increasing the rate from 37 nP. to 50 nP.?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is to provide better facilities and amenities for labour.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Is water supply one such facility?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Mainly water supply.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Then my question is relevant. What is the target date fixed for completing the water supply to the labour colonies?

Shri Abid Ali: I may submit that water supply is not the function of this particular department. That is

taken care of by some other organisation. This department gives contribution to that organisation and employees to provide better water supply facilities for the workers.

Export of Iron Ore

*1353. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 4 on the 16th November, 1959 and state:

(a) the total quantity of Iron Ore supplied to Czechoslovakia so far;

(b) whether the target of one million tons has been attained; and

(c) if not, by what date is the target expected to be attained?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) 8.11 lakh tons.

(b) Not yet.

(c) May, 1960

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: What is the method of payment?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: This is mainly on a barter basis. I cannot exactly mention the items which will have to be exported by Czechoslovakia.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Are capital goods and machinery taken in exchange for the ore?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Yes, there will be capital goods such as electrical plants, paper plants, coal mining equipment and other industrial machinery.

Assistance to Tea Industry

*1362. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have approved a scheme involving an expenditure of rupees two crores for providing financial assistance to the tea industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?