

(c) Rs. 516.5 lakhs.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know if the small tractors for which licences have been issued have been received?

Sbri Manubhai Shah: Yes; so far as is known, I am speaking of the receipt of tractors worth Rs. 516 lakhs last year.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know if these small tractors imported from countries other than the Soviet Union and Japan would be good, because the small tractors of the Soviet Union and Japan are supposed to be the best? Have we thought of importing any from those two countries?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is a matter of opinion. Actually in our country smaller tractors up to 15 h.p. have so far been banned, because in the opinion of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture they are not very suitable for this country. However, we are contemplating manufacturing small tractors in our own country as the Ministry of Food and Agriculture desire to permit their use for certain agricultural purposes.

Central Silk Board

*126. **Shri Shankariah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has recommended the Chakki System of Supply of disease-free cocoon seeds (after the second fever) to the cocoon rearers;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether any co-operative society for this purpose has been started anywhere in the country;

(d) the amount allotted for this purpose during the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 and the expenditure incurred during the same period;

(e) whether any experiments have been made in this respect; and

(f) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 1952-53 onward.

(c) Not so far.

(d) Grants amounting to Rs. 1,06,603/- and Rs. 27,557/- were given to the various State Governments during the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 respectively. The expenditure incurred during the same period was about Rs. 52,203/-.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The average yield of cocoons where chawki rearing has been introduced, has increased by 20 to 25 per cent.

Shri Shankariah: Though the resolution was passed in 1952, may I know why it was not implemented?

Shri Kanungo: The State Governments have not been able to spend whatever grants and loans were given to them and the allocations they received, mainly because of lack of staff. Lately the Government of India have offered to bear 50 per cent of the cost of the superior staff at the headquarters and we believe that in this year, the expenditure will match the allocations.

Shri Shankariah: Will the Government make it compulsory that all rearers are to adopt the chakki system of supply of cocoon seeds?

Shri Kanungo: The Silk Board has not made any proposals about it.

Shri Shankariah: May I know how much will be the extra cost for implementing this system?

Shri Kanungo: It will be a very large sum if it is spread out over the whole of India. In any case, it depends upon the acceptability of the rearers to prefer this type of rearing.

Shri Dasappa: May I know what percentage of the rearings is met through the chakki system?

Shri Kanungo: It is very small.

Shri Dasappa: I want to know it exactly.

Shri Kanungo: I do not know the exact percentage.

Burra Dhemu Coal Mine

*127. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to enquire into the flooding accident that took place in Burra Dhemu Coal mine in September, 1956, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings and recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the action so far taken in this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 33.]

Shri P. C. Bose: From the statement it appears that the pumping was not arranged immediately after the flooding accident. May I know what was the reason for that?

Shri Abid Ali: I have given the main recommendations of the enquiry committee in the statement. Whatever action they have suggested, we are taking.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether the men who survived after 19 days and came out of the jaws of death have got due compensation from the company?

Shri Abid Ali: We have not received any complaint with regard to the non-payment of any dues to them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The enquiry committee has recommended that at the rescue station, pumping equipment also should be kept. May I know what action is being taken by the Government on that?

Shri Abid Ali: It has been stated in the statement that the Chief Inspector of Mines has been asked to take appropriate action on these recommendations.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if prosecution has been launched against the manager, who has been held responsible for the accident, and whether he is still in charge of that mine?

Shri Abid Ali: Action under regulation 48 is being taken. So long as he is not suspended, he can remain in charge of the mine, according to law.

Plantation Inquiry Commission

*129. **Shri N. R. Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the recommendations made by the Plantation Inquiry Commission on Coffee, Rubber and Tea which have been accepted by Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know the recommendations that have not been accepted by the Government and the reasons therefor?

Shri Kanungo: They are under consideration. I may add that Government's decision on the tea part of the Report is likely to be available in a couple of months.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether any machinery is under contemplation for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations?

Shri Kanungo: When the Government's decision is finally taken and published, we will find that.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when the report of the Enquiry Commission on coffee and rubber will be published and made available?

Shri Kanungo: It is a matter of physical difficulty of getting them printed; they are so bulky.