

of the individual evacuees. The work of recovery is, however, being expedited as far as possible with reference to the policy, consistently followed by the Government of India, of not causing any undue hardship to the evacuees.

#### TAPIOCA AND ITS STARCH

\*1261. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether tapioca or its starch is imported into India;

(b) if so, the price of the imported tapioca and starch and the market price in India;

(c) the total demand for tapioca and its starch in India and the total production in India; and

(d) whether representations have been made to Government to prohibit the import of tapioca and its products and if so, with what result?

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

(a) Import of both tapioca and of starch derived from it is banned at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total production of tapioca is estimated to be 1.68 million tons. Figures in respect of total demand for tapioca starch are not available.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a).

#### INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

\*1262. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether the Central Government have received any application from the Travancore-Cochin Government for aid under the Industrial Housing Scheme since my starred question No. 537 concerning Industrial Housing was answered on the 21st November, 1952?

(b) If so, what is the amount applied for and how much has been granted?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):**

(a) Yes. A formal application with a scheme was received on the second of this month.

(b) The amount asked for is Rs. 25,00,000, divided equally as loan and subsidy, for the construction of 925 single-storeyed one-roomed tenements. Certain points requiring clarification, were referred to the State Government on the 8th of this month and their reply is awaited.

#### LEMON GRASS OIL (EXPORT)

\*1263. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of lemon grass oil in the years 1948 to 1952?

(b) Are Government aware of the slump now existing in the lemon grass oil market?

(c) What steps have Government taken to promote the export of this oil?

(d) Do Government contemplate measures to put this industry on a sound basis with a steady market and if so, what are they?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 59.]

(b) No.

(c) Trade representatives abroad have been asked to explore marketing possibilities of this oil in their areas. No duty is being charged on its exports.

(d) Yes. It is proposed to take up with State Government the questions of organisation of lemon grass plantations, restriction of cultivation only to the variety which yields the proper oil, and education of 'cottage scale' manufacturers in the technique of manufacture of quality products. The oil will also be included, as far as possible, in our bilateral trade agreements with other countries.

#### IRON AND RAILS TO SINGARENI COLLIERIES, LTD.

\*1264. **Shri P. R. Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the total quantity of 'iron and rails' indicated for by the Singareni Collieries Company, Hyderabad State, and the supplies made against the indent?

(b) Are Government aware that there is loss in production of coal as timely repairs to tubes could not be carried out?

(c) Are Government also aware that the workers are put to considerable difficulty due to rails not being laid underground till the work-spot and they have to lift coal to a considerable distance?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) A statement giving the information for 1952 and the first quarter of 1953 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 60.]