

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.]

(b) Production has not been materially affected.

(c) The State Government are aware of the hardship involved; the Collieries have been able to secure some second-hand rails and this will ease the situation.

FOREIGN EXPERTS

*1265. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Government of India have secured the services of a large number of foreign experts;

(b) the total number of all foreign experts who are in India at present, along with their respective nationality (i) working under direct Government control; (ii) under private organisations; and (iii) working independently;

(c) whether Government advertise their requirements of experts in foreign countries, and whether any applications are invited;

(d) the agency conducting the selection of the personnel, whether it is made by the Government of India, or by some foreign agency;

(e) whether the Union Public Service Commission and the Planning Commission have any voice in deciding the requirements and making selections; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the negative, whether Government intend to set up some such selecting agency?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (f). The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House when available.

SURPLUS U. S. ARMY STORES

*1266. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state what has happened to U.S. Army Stores brought down to India for war purposes which were found surplus on termination of World War II and were taken over by Government?

(b) What is the book value and market value of the stores concerned at the current rate of exchange?

(c) Is it a fact that some rare and costly electrical equipments were sold in auction to an Indian firm and circulars were subsequently issued by Government for purchase thereof from the same firm?

(d) Is it also a fact that accounts of depots closed some years ago have not been finalised yet?

(e) What is the actual profit and loss on account of these stores at present?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Bulk of the surplus stores has been disposed of.

(b) Book values were not indicated in all cases in the records left by the U.S. Army. It was, however, roughly estimated at Rs. 240 crores at the then rate of exchange. It is not possible to assess the present market value.

(c) So far as I know, no such thing took place. I can, however, look into the matter if full particulars of the deal are furnished.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The final balance sheet of the sale of American Surpluses has not yet been prepared.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*1267. **Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Coal Industry Advisory Committee made in April, 1952 have been accepted by Government?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to see that they are implemented in the coal mines?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). No Committee such as the "Coal Industry Advisory Committee" referred to has made any recommendation to the Government of India in April, 1952, but it is understood that the Member is referring to the recommendations made by the Working Party for the Coal Industry, which submitted its Report in September, 1951. A statement showing the action taken on the recommendations made by the Working Party is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

*1268. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have submitted proposals for further Community Projects for their respective States;

(b) if so, the number required for each State; and

(c) the total amount required for each State for such additional Projects?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.