

early in 1953. The factory will, in the main, manufacture foam concrete slabs for roofing, prestressed concrete components, and wooden doors, windows, etc. of standard sizes. The factory will also undertake steel fabrication, employing a modern process of electrical welding which is expected to reduce the consumption of steel appreciably.

(b) The products of the factory will be available for sale to the public as well as to Government Departments

MEETING OF CENTRAL PROGRAMME
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*575. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether a meeting of the Central Programme Advisory Committee took place recently?

(b) Who attended it and do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a report of the deliberations of the Committee?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of members who attended the meeting and a press note indicating some of the suggestions made by the Committee are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 24.] Recommendations of the Committee will be available after the minutes have been finalised.

COTTON (IMPORTS)

*576. **Shri Tulsidas:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total quantity of cotton imported into India during the first six months of 1952?

(b) Out of this how many bales received from U.S.A. have been proved to be in damaged condition?

(c) What steps have been taken by Government to safeguard the loss, if any, of Indian Insurance Companies on account of this transaction and generally to ensure that the Indian import trade is not exposed to the risk of receiving damaged goods?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) 871,228 bales of 400 lbs. each.

(b) Certain portions have been found damaged in about 2 lakh bales.

(c) The Government understand that most of the Insurance Companies concerned have decided to meet their commitments in full, and to take up

the question of reimbursement with the American shippers, themselves. The matter was taken up with the U.S. Government also, and it is hoped that individual importers and/or the Insurance Companies will be able to secure adequate compensation through the normal Court of arbitration prescribed in the purchase contracts.

IMPORT OF GRAINS FROM NEPAL

*577. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what are the results of the negotiations with Nepal Government in connection with importing grains from Nepal by those Indian citizens who have got cultivation in Nepal territory?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Nepal Government have stated that the Indian citizens in Nepal are allowed to carry the produce of their land from Nepal to India subject to the local rules and regulations regarding the movement of food.

Information has been asked for regarding these rules and regulations.

SAMBHAR SALT

*579. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the introduction of the nominee system for distribution of Sambhar salt has brought any reduction in retail rates per seer in consuming markets?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): No. The rate of commission paid to registered traders before the introduction of the nominee system was only one anna per maund and its abolition could not, therefore, have any appreciable effect on the retail price per seer of salt in the consuming markets.

DISTRIBUTION OF SALT

*580. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing salt stocks as on the 1st January, 1952, the production and despatches made and likely to be made to different districts during the year 1952 and the estimated available stocks as on 31st December, 1952 both in maunds and in percentage at different salt sources separately under Government and private management?

(b) Is it a fact that the entire salt production from sources under Government management is necessarily made to the States nominees irrespective of whether the receiving State has any statutory Control or not?

(c) Is it a fact that the salt produced by private management is sent to the district nominees only if the receiving State has a statutory control, otherwise its distribution is made through normal trade channels?

(d) What percentage of private salt production goes to the district nominees and through normal trade channels?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A statement showing the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 25.]

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) About 25 per cent. of salt produced by private factories goes to the district nominees and the rest through normal trade channels.

WEST BENGAL JUTE

*581. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the jute growers of West Bengal are demanding fixation of a minimum price of jute in view of the very low and uneconomic price that is being offered to them now; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to determine the minimum price?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

*582. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how many invitations were received by the Government of India during the period from January, 1951 to October, 1952 to attend International Conferences and Conventions bearing on trade;

(b) how many of such Conferences were attended by Indian delegates; and

(c) whether such delegates submitted any proposal to Government for development of Indian trade?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required as it pertains to the Commerce and

Industry Ministry is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 26.]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN

185. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of the latest trade agreement signed between India and Pakistan; and

(b) the exchange rate that has been settled for the purpose of these transactions?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the text of the Agreement, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) The rates are given below:

(i) *Buying and selling rate by the Reserve Bank of India.*

Buying rate: Rs. 69-8-3 Pakistan for Rs. 100 Indian.

Selling rate: Rs. 69-6-6 Pakistan for Rs. 100 Indian.

(ii) *Buying and selling rate by the State Bank of Pakistan.*

Buying rate: Rs. 144-0-9 Indian for Rs. 100 Pakistan

Selling rate: Rs. 143-13-3 Indian for Rs. 100 Pakistan.

PROMOTION OF INDIAN TRADE

186. **Shri Telkikar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the countries in which Indian trade promotion and trade publicity work is being done; and

(b) the categories and the names of publications published in the years 1947 and 1952?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the House two statements giving the information required. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 27.]

TEA PRICES

187. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what were the price rates of tea in the years 1950 and 1951 and what is the rate now in the latter half of 1952?