

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When the Mission came, we co-operated with them in getting the doctors.

Mr. Speaker: This point was clarified before in this House.

SURPLUS DEFENCE STORES

***670. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) what was the value of the surplus defence stores disposed of by the Ministry during the year 1951-52 and during the period from 1st April 1952 up to date; and

(b) whether any of the items disposed of were controlled items among textiles, steel salvage and scrap?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) As regards the first part, I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply given to his Question No. 1520 on the 8th July, 1952.

The book value of surplus Defence Stores disposed of during the period from the 1st April, 1952 to the 31st October, 1952, is Rs. 4.83 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the total book value of the stores awaiting disposal just now?

Shri Buragohain: The total book value of surplus stores outstanding, including American surpluses and civil stores is 35.14 crores.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the amount of declarations of surplus during the last 12 months?

Shri Buragohain: I cannot give the figure for the past 12 months; but I can give for the whole of 1951-52. It was Rs. 15 crores. The book value of declarations for the period 1-4-52 to 31-10-52 is 3.77 crores.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is any separate account kept of the expenditure incurred in the maintenance of this Disposal Wing of the Supply Organisation?

Shri Buragohain: Yes, Sir, we have got a separate wing of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether a separate account of expenditure for this wing is kept, and, if so, what was the expenditure incurred during this period?

Shri Buragohain: I should like to have notice of this question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What percentage of such surplus stores was sold by notified auction and what percentage by negotiated sales, Sir?

Shri Buragohain: I have not got these figures, Sir.

ARTICLES PRODUCED IN INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

***671. Sardar Hukam Singh (a)** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any new articles were produced in India for the first time during the last twelve months with the help and encouragement given by the Development Wing of the Ministry?

(b) If so, what were these items?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of items is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 15]

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the amount of foreign exchange that we had to spend for the import of these articles in the previous year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Which articles, Sir?

Sardar Hukam Singh: Those that we are making here in India for the first time.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, the information is not available.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the amount of foreign exchange saved on account of the manufacture of these articles in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the hon. Member asked whether new articles were produced in India for the first time during the twelve months. The list is a very formidable one. The extent of the help that we have given varies with each particular commodity. I am afraid, Sir, that it would not be possible for me to collect the information which the hon. Member wants.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have any foreign concerns taken up manufacture of these articles for the first time or is it all Indian owned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not got it, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, what are the Commodities which have received government aid and to what extent Government has spent on them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot catch the question, Sir.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether the cost of production of these articles which are being manufactured since recently is cheaper than the cost of imported goods?

Mr. Speaker: It is a remotely related question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know, Sir, whether all these articles have been tested and found up to the mark or equal to the standard of the imported ones?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are two methods of testing quality. One is for the Alipore Test House to be conducted. This is done invariably if Government is purchasing the articles manufactured for their stores requirements. For that every article has to go to the Alipore Test House to be tested. The other method is to lay down standards by the Indian Standards Institution and see whether the standards are being adhered to. We have furnished about 50 of these items and it is very difficult for me to say how many of them have been tested, what portion of the manufacture has been tested. It is a very omnibus question and I must plead incapacity to answer this question.

IMPORT OF USED CARS

***672. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to a supplementary question raised on starred question No. 1319 on the 30th June, 1952 regarding import of used cars and state the number of cars imported from dollar and soft currency areas in the year 1951-52 which were disposed of soon after their arrival?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Since there was no restriction on the sale of used cars imported as personal baggage from soft currency areas it is not possible to say how many such cars were disposed of soon after their arrival in India.

Used cars from dollar areas are allowed to be brought into India on the passenger executing a bond not to sell the car for a period of one year and to produce evidence within a month from the date of expiry of the one year period that the car was still in his possession. So far no case of violation of this Agreement has come to the notice of Government.

METALLURGICAL COAL

***673. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an upper limit of production of selected grades of metallurgical coal has been fixed; and

(b) if so, what is that limit and how is that going to be worked out?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes, for the years 1952 and 1953.

(b) 7.9 million tons in 1952 and 7.4 million tons in 1953. The Coal Board has fixed targets for individual collieries taking into consideration the production in 1950 and the anticipated normal production in 1952. For each colliery, or group of collieries under the same ownership or managing agency, the pegging of output will be regulated by the supply of wagons.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether after the fixation of this upper limit of production of metallurgical coal the collieries would be free to increase the production of lower grade coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The collieries have been given a certain latitude to switch over from the production of certain selected grades to other grades of coal for a certain period with defined limits.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government has assessed the number of coalminers who are likely to be retrenched as a result of the fixation of this upper limit?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Every care is being taken to fix the limit in such a way as not to involve any excessive retrenchment of labour.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how this upper limit compares with the usual production of metallurgical coal during the last few years?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot say how it compares with the production during the last few years, but compared to the 1950 figure the 1952 figure is 108 per cent. and the 1953 figure is expected to be the same as in 1950.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how the recommendations of the Metallurgical Coal Enquiry Committee have been implemented if the fact is that instead of decrease in consumption, in production there is an increase?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The recommendations of that Committee were accepted broadly by Government, but