

(c) whether the Estimates Committee has suggested that immediate action should be taken to appoint a small committee of engineers unconnected with the river valley organisations to examine the matter and to assess the loss so far sustained on this account and suggest punishments if losses have been incurred through the negligence of certain persons; and

(d) what action have Government taken on the above suggestion of the Estimates Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and Power, has been asked to enquire into the matter and his report is awaited.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestion is under consideration of Government.

INSPECTION OF STORES SUPPLIED FOR D. V. C.

***695. Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in their fifth report for 1951-52 under para 137 has reported that in the case of Damodar Valley Corporation it was noticed that an agency or associated agency which was responsible for supplying store was also entrusted with the duty of inspecting those stores; and

(b) whether Government have examined this matter and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have appointed a Committee to examine and report on this and other recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

ASSETS OF INTERNATIONAL TEA MARKET EXPANSION BOARD

***697. Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the International Tea Market Expansion Board has any assets?

(b) If so, what are its assets?

(c) What was the proportion and the total amount of India's contributions, out of which these assets have been secured?

(d) Would India have any claim on the assets after her withdrawal from the Board?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) Information is under collection.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 21].

(d) Government would prefer not to answer this question at this stage.

CEMENT

***699. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total quantity of cement required by the Government of India for their building programmes during 1951-52?

(b) What was the total quantity allotted in 1951-52 for the housing and rehabilitation schemes of displaced persons?

(c) What was the quantity allotted in 1951-52 to different State Governments on their own account?

(d) What was the total quantity released to the general public?

(e) Is it a fact that black marketing is prevalent in the cement market?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take to release more cement for the general public?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The demand was 900,000 tons for the Government of India building programmes including dams, bridges, etc., but 560,000 tons only could be allotted.

(b) 170,760 tons against a demand of 277,040 tons.

(c) Out of 2.2 million tons allotted to States, 880,000 tons were released by them for Government departments and quasi-Government bodies.

(d) 2 million tons including allotments for agricultural and rehabilitation purposes.

(e) A few cases have been reported by the State Governments.

(f) Some expansion schemes have already been sanctioned. As production goes up, it would be possible to improve allocations to the general public.