

Prime Minister to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 390 on the 11th July, 1952, which gives details of the agreements reached with the Government of Pakistan and other steps taken for the preservation of sanctity and proper maintenance of places of worship in India and Pakistan and also details of complaints about misuse, desecration and demolition of Hindu and Sikh Shrines in West Pakistan.

SODIUM CARBONATE FOR GLASS INDUSTRY

*709. { Shri Meghnad Saha:
Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:

(a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the output of Indian glass manufacturing industry has been adversely affected by the high price of sodium carbonate imported from U.K.?

(b) What is the price of heavy sodium carbonate per ton in the U.K. and in India?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by Government for the encouragement of manufacture of heavy sodium carbonate in India?

(d) Are Government aware that all sheet glass factories in India have been forced to close down on account of the high price of heavy sodium carbonate and the consumer has to pay four times the price for imported sheet glass?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 23].

(c) Soda ash industry is in the private sector. Government is prepared to give all encouragement to manufacturers who have schemes for producing heavy soda ash or are interested in increasing their existing capacity.

(d) No, Sir. No sheet glass factory was closed on account of high prices of soda ash nor has the consumer to pay unreasonable price for imported sheet glass.

चीन के लिये सिक्किम के चावल

*710. पंडित अलनू राय शास्त्री: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बातलां की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारत सरकार ने सिक्किम की राजधानी गंगटोक से चावल की एक बड़ी मात्रा कलकत्ता के रास्ते से चीन ले जाने की अनुमति दी है; तथा

(ख) यदि दी है, तो कितने चावल के लिये? इसे कब ले जाया गया तथा इस सम्बन्ध में परिवहन के कौन से साधन प्रयोग में लाये गये?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). At the request of the People's Government of China, the Government of India agreed in June last to grant facilities for the transport of Chinese rice to Tibet via India upto the end of 1952. It is estimated that between 2000 and 2500 tons of this rice will be transported by that date. The rice is moved from Calcutta to Siliguri by rail, from Siliguri to Gangtok by trucks and beyond Gangtok by mules.

ASSAM TEA

*711. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the total bulk of Indian tea is produced in Assam Tea Gardens; and

(b) the average annual income derived by the Government of India from tea?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar): (a) About 46.06 per cent. so far as production in 1951 is concerned.

(b) Rs 14,23,01,000 by way of Central Excise and Export duties.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

*712. Shri Natesan: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the Central Electricity Authority contemplated under the Electricity Supply Act, 1948, has been formed and if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The Central Electricity Authority was constituted on the 20th January, 1950 by the late Ministry of Works, Mines and Power vide their Notification No. EL-II-1(9), dated the 20th January, 1950.