

Shri A. C. Guha: By the Food and Agriculture Ministry or the Commerce Ministry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: One by the Food and Agriculture Ministry and the other by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Shri P. G. Sen: Have the Government any proposal under contemplation to raise the price of jute?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have stated the position very clearly. In view of what I have said I do not think there is any call for Government to raise the price of Jute. In any event, Government, if it raises the price of jute, cannot raise the price of jute products on which the price of jute remains.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members may kindly study the statement and then take another opportunity to ask questions.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: This is not in regard to the statement. May I know if the Indian Jute Mills Association was instructed to find out the surplus stocks of jute remaining also in Orissa and Assam or only in Bihar?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Only in Bihar.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Why not in Orissa?

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the Government has got any estimate as to the quantity of jute now with growers, and what quantity might have passed by this time to the middlemen, the balers?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as Bihar is concerned, I think 75 per cent. has gone out of the hands of growers. This information was obtained somewhere at the end of January. A month has passed since then. I am not in a position to answer the question in regard to West Bengal Jute.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA

*445. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any favourable response has been received from the French Government to the notes sent to them regarding the unhappy incidents in Pondicherry;

(b) whether the French Government is prepared for a peaceful settlement of the issues involved; and

(c) whether the situation has changed since our Ambassador at Paris took up the matter with the French Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The Government of India have received no satisfactory response so far.

(b) The Government of India hope so.

(c) There has been no marked change.

Shri B. K. Das: With reference to the answer to Part (a), the hon. Minister stated that there has been no favourable response. I want to know whether any reply at all has been received.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Our last note on that was sent on the 17th December. No reply to that has yet been received.

Shri A. V. Thomas: What will be the attitude of the Government if people of the neighbouring villages who are harassed by the Pondicherry people, occupy Pondicherry itself?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Gopala Rao: In view of this reply, may I know if the Government are contemplating taking radical steps for a final settlement of this matter?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Our views on this matter have been clearly expressed. I do not know what the hon. Member has in mind by radical steps.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether the French police from Pondicherry are frequently trespassing into the Indian Union territory and harassing the pro-merger groups who have taken refuge in Indian territory?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There have been several such incidents of this nature in the past.

Shri Venkataraman: Was any such incident reported on the 20th February?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: On the 21st February there was a serious incident on the border. We have asked for full reports which have not yet reached us.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the attitude of the French Government towards this question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are not surrendering.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We cannot state what the attitude of the French Government may be. They have stated in the past that there should be a referendum on this issue and after that, the House will remember, we pointed out to them that their own activities there had made any fair referendum quite impossible. That is where the matter stands.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are there still border incidents? Has the border patrol been strengthened to prevent such incidents?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: As I said, on the 21st February, there was a pretty serious incident on the border. But, otherwise, of late, there has been some little change for the better. In these areas our police force has been increased.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether migration of families from the French territories to India is still going on?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no information.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether there were any cases of hooliganism when the preparation for the holding of the referendum was going on, and whether any persons had been arrested by the French Government for those acts of hooliganism?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is perhaps speaking of something that happened two years ago.

Shri A. C. Guha: When the preparation for the referendum was going on.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There was no preparation for referendum going on.

Shri Venkataraman: Have the Government lodged any protests against such border incidents, and have they received any satisfactory answer from them?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: With regard to the previous incidents, we have of course made our protests both to the Government in Paris as well as to the Government in Pondicherry.

Several Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. This has been sufficiently answered. Next question.

WAGONS FOR TRANSPORT OF COAL

***446. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to a supplementary question raised on starred question No. 534 asked on the 21st November, 1952, and state the number of wagons allotted per day for the movement of coal from the coalfields for internal consumption in this country?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): An average of 3,474 wagons a day from all fields in 1952.

Dr. Hari Mohan: May I know whether any representation by the Indian Collieries Union has been received by the hon. Minister on this subject?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Regarding wagon supply? Various representations are being received from various associations, the Mining Federation and the Mining Association, about the transport position generally, at various times.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What is the number of wagons demanded for the carriage of coal?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): For the current year?

Shri K. C. Reddy: This supply of 3,474 wagons is against a demand of 4,622 wagons.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether in spite of the supply of these wagons, there has been any accumulation of coal near the colliery sites, and whether those accumulations are likely to be removed soon?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I think I have answered a similar question by the hon. Member on a previous occasion, and I answered at that time that the pit-head stocks are gradually going down.

PROTO-TYPE APPLICATION OF WROUGHT TITANIUM AND ITS ALLOYS

***447. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Imperial Chemical Industries in India have made any attempts towards the development of proto-type applications of wrought titanium and its alloys in the engineering and the aero-engineering fields;

(b) whether any plant has been installed; and

(c) if so, the experiments done so far and their results?