

1919. This subsidy was increased to Rs. 20 lakhs after the second World War and 50 per cent. of this enhanced subsidy was capitalised for a sum of Rs. 2½ crores to finance hydro-electric projects and also to provide capital goods for Nepal's industrialisation programme. The capitalised sum was paid to the Government of Nepal in July 1946.

SILK BOARD

*1990. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Government obtain any periodical reports from the Silk Board?

(b) When was the last report of the Board issued?

(c) What is the programme of the Board for the current year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir; half yearly reports are received from the Board.

(b) On 23rd April, 1953.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 42.]

PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

*1991. **Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the present wholesale prices of petroleum products in U.S.A., U.K. and Japan?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): A statement showing such wholesale selling prices of Petroleum Products in U.S.A. and U.K. as are available is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 43.] The wholesale prices of petroleum products in Japan are not available.

HINDUSTAN HOUSING FACTORY

*1992. **Shri Telkikar:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the present activities of the Hindustan Housing Factory Limited;

(b) the work turned out by the factory after its incorporation on the 27th January, 1953; and

(c) whether the additional machinery required by the company has been received?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). The Hindustan Housing Factory Limited will as

far as practicable give preference to the production and manufacture of the following in the order mentioned:-

- (i) Foam concrete slabs;
- (ii) Pre-stressed concrete components;
- (iii) wooden doors, windows, etc.;
- (iv) Steel fabrication.

The new company took over the requisite assets and staff of the Government Housing Factory on 1st April 1953 and is now installing a machine for cutting wood. Repairs to the existing plant for production of foam concrete slabs are under progress and arrangements are being made for shipping from Europe, during May 1953 machinery for the manufacture of pre-stressed concrete products and for the manufacture of wood work on a large scale. Although the Hindustan Housing Factory has not started production, it is in a position to undertake immediately orders for wood work. It has already been enrolled as a first class contractor for wood work with the Central Public Works Department.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S BUST AT PEACE PALACE AT THE HAGUE

*1993. **Shri Telkikar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the Government which took the initiative in and bore the expenses of, installing a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Peace Palace at The Hague on the 13th November, 1952; and

(b) in what other places in the world busts and statues of Mahatma Gandhi are installed?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) The initiative was taken by Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta, the then Indian Ambassador at The Hague. The expenses were met by the Govindaram Seksaria Charity Trust, Indore.

(b) As far as Government are aware, busts or statues have been installed at two other places; in Trinidad in British West Indies and in Sitiawan, a small District town in Perak (Malaya).

VICE-PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO U.S.A.

*1994. **Shri Baghuramiah:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any truth in the newspaper reports that the Vice-President of India will be visiting the United States of America in the near future; and