

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This year we want to purchase the entire quantity. We have purchased up to this time 12 lakh tons. For the rest, we are negotiating with the other countries.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is it a fact that there is a complaint that the cost price is rising and therefore the exporting countries do not want to renew the agreement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The exporters are proposing higher prices. We have not yet agreed to that.

CINCHONA COMMITTEE

*724. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Cinchona Committee have submitted their Report and if so, whether Government have considered it and come to any decision?

(b) If not, when do they expect to get the Report?

(c) What was (i) the personnel of the Committee; (ii) the duration of its labour and (iii) the cost incurred on it?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) and (b). Government have not yet received the report. The Report is expected by the end of this month.

(c) (i) The following were the personnel of the Committee:—

Shri S. C. Sen, Principal Quinine officer, Government of India (Convenor).

Shri P. M. Nabar, Drugs Controller, Directorate General of Health Services, New Delhi.

Shri A. Y. Swamy, Director of Cinchona, Madras.

Dr. M. Sen, Director of Cinchona, West Bengal.

Shri J. M. Sen Gupta, Statistician, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

Shri B. C. Ganguly, Assistant Accounts Officer, Office of Accountant General, West Bengal, Calcutta (Cost Accountant and Secretary).

(ii) The Committee was appointed in December, 1951 and concluded its investigations by September, 1952. The draft report is under preparation.

(iii) The total cost up to the end February, 1953 was about Rs. 20,000/-

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Are any of our quinine requirements met from imports?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No quinine is imported except some salts of quinine which are not manufactured in India.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES FOR COAL MINERS

*725. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. R. L. Malaviya, Member of the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Advisory Committee that the Colliery owners are doing little to undertake housing construction for the Coal Miners in spite of the fact that the Government Housing Subsidy Scheme has been in force for three years; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) While it is true that the progress made so far cannot yet be considered satisfactory, it is some encouragement that during the period September 1952 to 30th November 1952, applications from 62 collieries for constructing 1450 houses were received as against applications from 26 collieries for construction of 963 houses in the period September 1950 to 31st August 1952. The total number of houses for which applications have so far been sanctioned is 2423.

In order to facilitate construction of houses the rate of subsidy was increased in August 1952. The Governments of West Bengal and Bihar were approached to amend bye-laws for miners' housing. West Bengal Government has already done so. The progress of housing construction is being periodically reviewed and it is hoped that the subsidy scheme will be utilized to a still greater extent in future.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know whether Government have any estimate about the requirements of houses to be built for coal mine workers?

Shri V. V. Giri: I should like to have notice. I will supply the information.

RAID ON STATION MASTER'S OFFICE AT SEALDAH

*726. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 500 passengers raided the Station Master's office at Sealdah?

(b) What were the causes of the raid?