

independent Electricity Board is not called for. Difficulties—financial and administrative—have been raised by some other State Governments.

(c) The necessity for setting up State Electricity Boards has been impressed upon the State Governments each time an extension of time was given. The question will be discussed at an Inter-State Conference to be convened shortly to consider suggestions for amending the Electricity (Supply) Act.

PURCHASE OF TEXTILE MACHINERY

***792. Shri Kelappan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mission representing the largest textile mills of India toured Japan for purchasing textile machinery with a view to rationalise the textile industry in India; and

(b) what progress has so far been made in the matter of replacing out-of-date machinery by modern machinery?

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

(a) A trade delegation visited Japan in 1947 for purchase of Textile Machinery with a view to supplement supplies from other sources.

(b) It is estimated that about 10 per cent. of the old machinery has been replaced in the course of the last 5 years.

Shri Kelappan: May I know if it has involved any retrenchment of labour?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Not so far to any appreciable extent.

Shri Kelappan: Did any Mission representing textile industries visit Japan last year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No; the Mission which Government had sponsored visited in 1947. Since that year a number of textile mill owners have been going to Japan, but not sponsored by the Government.

ADVISERS' BOARD OF PLANNING COMMISSION

***794. Shri Gopala Rao:** (e) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state how many members there are on the Advisers' Board of the Planning Commission?

(b) Are any advisers to the Planning Commission paid and if so, how much?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Twenty-three.

(b) Nothing except travelling and halting allowance is paid to the members of the Advisory Board.

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know whether one Mr. Venkatachari, Ex-Chief Engineer, Madras, is a Member of the Advisory Board for Irrigation?

Shri Hathi: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Charak, absent. Mr. Hukam Singh: absent. The questions are over.

Shri S. C. Singhal: Question No. 768, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right; still there is time.

STEAM COAL FOR U. P.

***768. Shri S. C. Singhal:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the quota of steam coal allotted to U.P. is short of the demand of the industries there?

(b) What is the basis of allotment of the quotas to each State?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) The quotas, which are normally fixed on a monthly basis, are allotted on the basis of the recommendation made by the State Coal Controller concerned, the actual supplies made during previous years, and the anticipated wagon availability during the month.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question list is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REPORT OF WORKING PARTY FOR COAL INDUSTRY

***766. Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have approved the recommendations of the report of the Working Party for Coal Industry;

(b) whether zonal production and distribution of coal has started; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide additional transport facilities in the outlying fields to make the zonal production and distribution a success?