

lower because it is not the main product.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know whether the contract is irrevocable and obligatory?

Shri Kidwai: Which contract?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: With the T.C.A.

Shri Kidwai: Through the T.C.A. we are getting this free, and we can refuse it. But, really our consumption must be much higher than it is today. As the hon. Minister has stated, we were expecting the consumption to be 4½ lakh tons this year. Then, the Sindri production and this would have sufficed. We are trying to see that this year the use of fertiliser is increased to the extent it is available.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know the gap between the price at which the factory gives the fertiliser to the pool and the price at which the agriculturists take it?

Shri Kidwai: The pool price is Rs. 315; the Sindri price is Rs. 310.

Shri A. C. Guha: Am I to understand that just at that pool price the peasants get the fertiliser?

Shri Kidwai: Yes. The cultivators get the fertiliser at the pool price plus Railway freight.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Plus incidental charges.

Shri Altekar: May I know whether the quality of our fertiliser is as good as that of any fertiliser from foreign countries?

Shri Kidwai: Let us hope so.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know what proportion of the total consumption is consumed by the actual cultivator?

Shri Kidwai: I hope it is not used by others. It is always used by the cultivator.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether, in view of the diminishing demand from the purchasers, there is any proposal for diminishing production?

Shri Kidwai: No. The more we produce, the lower will be the price and readily acceptable to the cultivator.

Shri Jhunjunwala: Is it only the pool price plus the freight which the peasant is charged, or are there some other incidental expenses also?

Shri Kidwai: Other incidental charges are there, and therefore each State Government is trying to reduce this as much as possible, and I hope we will succeed to a great extent.

Shri Jhunjunwala: What is it at present?

Shri Kidwai: It is different in different States. For instance, the railway freight, I understand, from Sindri to Bombay is Rs. 50 and that the internal distribution and freight and commission to the seller and all that, it comes to Rs. 80 in Bombay. In Bengal, I think it is about Rs. 50 and they are trying to reduce it. So it is different in different States.

Shri Jhunjunwala: I want to know what are the commission charges and other incidental charges apart from freight. Freight is a thing which cannot be reduced.

Shri Kidwai: That information will be available with the States. We pass on to each State its requirements, and then they arrange distribution.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What is the present rate of production per day? Has there been any marked improvement?

Shri Kidwai: It is more than what we had estimated as the capacity. Just at present, it produces more than 1,000 tons a day.

SUPPLY OF COAL TO INDUSTRIES

*96, **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any kind of difficulty last year in supplying coal to the industries;

(b) whether Government have asked the industries to use oil as far as possible and not to switch over to coal; and

(c) the reason for this difficulty last year?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No; except in the case of industries situated in areas where transport is difficult.

(b) No; but industries were warned in their own interest, that before they effected any changes in processes involving increased coal consumption (e.g. change over from furnace oil to coal) they should first ascertain from the Coal Commissioner whether it would be possible to meet the increased demand for coal.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether production of coal has fallen from the record figure of 34 million tons in 1951-52?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, it has not fallen. It has gone up on the other hand.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if there has been an accumulation of coal near the colliery sites larger than last year?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There has been a large amount of pit-head stock, but I am glad to say it is being progressively decreased. The pit-head stock is diminishing rather than increasing.

Shri A. C. Guha: In any case, is it still larger than last year?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No. It is diminishing, I said. It is not larger than last year.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is that over-accumulation due to lack of wagon facilities, and if so, what has been done to ease the wagon position?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is a question which the Railway Minister has to answer, but I can say this, that during the last year or thereabout, the position has definitely improved, but the demand from the various industries outstrip the wagon availability, and as such, there is some amount of difficulty because of that.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that as a result of certain priorities fixed by the Production Ministry, the movement of coal has been prevented?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Not to my knowledge.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know how long it would take to clear up this still accumulated stock of coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: We can make every effort, but I cannot say exactly what time it will take.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What is the present tonnage of accumulated coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot give the exact figure straightaway. It is about 2 million and odd tons.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there was a request for more supply of coal from the South due to the curtailment of electric energy there recently due to want of proper rains?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot say how much increased supply we can make to South India because of the excep-

tional difficulties that have arisen now owing to the shortage of supply of electricity. Even normally there is some difficulty in making supplies to the South because of transport difficulties. I am not yet aware as to what additional quantity of coal is required by various industries because of the failure of electric supply. I cannot give an answer to that now.

सेठ अचल सिंह: क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश का कोटा पिछले साल ५० पर सेट क्यों कम कर दिया गया है ?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware of any such reduction.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या यह कोल की कमी की वजह से किया गया है या वैननों की कमी की वजह से ?

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the coal accumulated at pit-heads is subject to deterioration, and if so, what is the percentage of such deterioration?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not think it is subject to any serious deterioration. There may be some deterioration. I cannot give definite information.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I asked the percentage of deterioration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is negligible. Otherwise, they would give it.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot give the percentage.

Shri Raghavaiah: Have the demands of all the coal-consuming associations like the Tobacco Growers' Association and also other industries been met before coal is exported to South Korea and Malaya?

Shri K. C. Reddy: All the various demands are ascertained from the various industries, and the Coal Commissioner allots such and such a quantity to each industry, but that does not mean, because there is shortage of supply for particular industries, we should stop our exports altogether.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has any attempt been made to utilize the pit deposits in South India in Arcot District which can be used as a substitute for coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to lignite?

Shri Meghnad Saha: Yes.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is still in the project stage. A pilot project has just been taken up by the Government of Madras, and no production has yet been made. After the pilot project succeeds and after production begins, it will ease the situation somewhat.

CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION

*97. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have taken notice of the Central African Federation Scheme now under discussion for South and North Rhodesia and Nyasaland;

(b) the number of Indians domiciled in these territories and how far their future status is likely to be affected by the Scheme;

(c) whether Government have had any communication with the U.N.O. or with the Government of the U. K. on this Federation proposal from the point of view of the autonomy or self-Government of the non-autonomous territories; and

(d) whether Government have made it known that India is vitally interested in the future development of Africa?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The Government of India are aware that a scheme for the Central African Federation has been put forward and has been under discussion.

(b) There are approximately 4,150, 2,600 and 4,000 Indians in Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland respectively. The proposal for a federation is still in a formative stage and it is difficult to say how ultimately this will affect the Indian community in those areas.

(c) and (d). No formal communications have been sent on behalf of the Government to the U.N.O. or the U.K. in regard to this proposal. But the fact that the Government of India is interested and is of opinion that the views of the African inhabitants of these areas should be given the fullest consideration is well-known. When occasion arises, the Government's views will be formally communicated to the other Governments concerned.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if any of the former mandated areas or

areas now under the Trusteeship Council are also to be included in this Federation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sorry, I cannot give an answer to that without enquiry. I am not sure.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is any such proposal for Federation likely to come up for consideration on the Trusteeship Council of the U.N.O. or the General Assembly of the U.N.O.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Normally, it does not automatically come up unless some party brings it forward.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the Government of India have got any idea to bring forward this proposal before the U.N.O.?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, sir.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it a fact that Indians settled in Central Africa have been making common cause with the white people there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No.

PRODUCTION OF UREA AND AMMONIUM NITRATE AT SINDRI

*98. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what progress has been made at Sindri for expansion of the factory for production of urea and ammonium nitrate?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): A team of administrative and technical experts in which T.C.A. is represented has been sent to Japan, North America and Europe on 10th February 1953 to visit important Urea and Ammonium-Nitrate Plants in those countries and study the different processes of Urea and Ammonium Nitrate manufacture, with a view to select the process most suitable for adoption at Sindri. The team is expected to take about two months to complete the study and submit a report.

Shri Barman: In case it is considered desirable to start this production at Sindri, is it proposed to start it by State enterprise or private enterprise?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It will be started by the Sindri Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited, and it is a state enterprise.

Shri A. M. Thomas rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members who have tabled the question must have priority. Mr. Barman.

Shri Barman: It was known some time that out of the sludge that is left