

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). There is no definition of luxury goods. However, classification of goods is determined according to the ability of the traffic to pay for transportation charges. Due regard being had to the price of the goods, transit risks, transportation characteristics etc. Commodities like essences, gold lace, musk, silk piece-goods, fine shawls etc., are classified even higher than books.

**Shri Dabhi:** Is it a fact that some articles more valuable than books are placed lower in the category?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not know what articles the hon. Member means by calling them more valuable. If he could name the article, I will collect the information and send it to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member may ask a question.

**Shri Dabhi:** Are there any categories more valuable than books?

**Shri Alagesan:** There is one higher category.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** May I know whether the Government will see that books are treated as favourably as possible?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is a suggestion for action.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Do the Government consider books a luxury and a dangerous luxury at that?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Government has not said so. Next question.

**Shri Dabhi:** Do Government propose to lower the present freight charges on books with a view to encouraging the spread of knowledge?

**Shri Alagesan:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is again a suggestion for action. Next question.

#### AMMONIUM SULPHATE

\*371. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is an accumulation of stocks of Ammonium Sulphate in Sindri?

(b) Is it a fact that the price of the commodity is higher than the price of the Japanese commodity?

(c) Is it a fact that the price per ton of the commodity sold by the Ministry of Agriculture to the States is Rs. 365/- per ton, while the price of Japanese-produced fertilizer available in the country is Rs. 240 per ton?

(d) What are the causes of the accumulation of stocks?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes. The Sindri Factory are at present holding a stock of about 70,000 tons Sulphate of Ammonia. 41,000 tons, out of these stocks, will move immediately to Calcutta for the tea industry as a result of arrangements recently made by us.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Ministry of Food and Agriculture averages out the price of imported and indigenous sulphate of ammonia. This pool price is now Rs. 335 per long ton f.o.r. Sindri or ports. One purchase of 26,000 tons of Japanese fertilisers was recently made by T. C. A. at Rs. 240 per ton c.i.f. Indian ports.

(d) The following are the main reasons:—

(i) Due to depression in the tea market, the North East India Tea Industry, who were allocated 50,500 tons of sulphate of ammonia have lifted only about 28,000 tons.

(ii) The Governments of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal did not lift the whole of their allocations from Sindri and about 13,000 tons remain unlifted.

(iii) Owing to the failure of the late monsoon in many parts of Madras, a large proportion of the supplies received by that State has remained unutilised.

(iv) The prices of imported and Sindri sulphate of ammonia remained at a higher level during 1952 with the result that the pool price during 1952 ranged between Rs. 355 and Rs. 380.

**Shri Venkataraman:** May I ask whether there are any indigenous producers of fertilisers who are not taken into this pool?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir. There is one producer who did not join the pool so far. But, his case is under consideration at the moment.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Is it not a fact that in reply to Question No. 46 the hon. Minister stated that the Mysore Fertiliser Co., and the Travancore Fertilisers are the two companies which have not joined the pool? May I know the reason why they have not joined the pool?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Because they were getting a higher price than what they would get if they had come into the pool.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Is it not a fact that they have applied to the Government to be included in the pool?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Venkataraman:** What action do Government propose to take on their application?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** As I already said, the matter is under consideration.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether it is a fact that the use of fertilisers has not penetrated much beyond cities and towns?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Are they ploughing in the towns? Yes, Mr. T. N. Singh.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I ask another question, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I cannot allow such questions.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The hon. Minister said that the price has been reduced to Rs. 335. May I know whether in reducing the price, the Government have taken into consideration the cost of production?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The cost of production is only 310 rupees. The pool price last year was Rs. 365. The pool price this year is Rs. 335.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** When this concern is not intended for making any profit, may I know why the price was fixed at the high level of Rs. 345?

**Shri Kidwai:** I never said Rs. 345. As I said, the factory had to carry over a certain stock the cost of production of which was higher than the cost of production today, because we are now in full production. Therefore, we

had to take that cost also into consideration in fixing the pool price at Rs. 335.

**Shri Punnoose:** Can the hon. Minister indicate how far this reduction in the off-take of fertilisers affects our targets in the Five Year Plan in agriculture?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are going away from one thing to another.

**Shri Matthen:** Has the Sindri factory got a selling organisation like the Cement Marketing Board, on a commercial basis?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No.

#### ALL-INDIA TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON TEA

**\*372, Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what were the agreed recommendations of the Fourth All India Tripartite Conference on Tea held recently in Calcutta?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of the representatives of the workers and employers and when?

**The Deputy-Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) At the time of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held at Calcutta on the 20th December 1952, a resolution was adopted by the representatives of the employers and workers. Its copy is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 26.]

(b) The Government of India have already announced in a Press Note issued on 6th February 1953 their decisions on the proposals contained in the resolution.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This is coming up again and again. Next question.

#### JET AIRCRAFT

**\*375, Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many International Airways using jet aircraft touch India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the jet aircrafts require longer runways;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce jet aircraft for inland service; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to lengthen the runways and make other necessary alterations?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Among the international airlines