

commodity he has in mind with regard to export of raw materials.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What are the metals whose manufacturing plants do not exist in this country at all?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know exactly what he means by 'manufacturing', whether it is processing or manufacturing out of metals.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Processing.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Of course, we are not in a position to process lead here.

IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT (WAYS AND MEANS) FUND

*1618, **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the steps taken so far for the creation of Irrigation Development (Ways and Means) Fund in pursuance of the suggestions made by the Planning Commission?

(b) Is such fund to be purely a concern of the State Government or of both the State and the Union Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The proposal to create an Irrigation Development (Ways and Means) Fund was accepted by the Government of Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya-Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin. Madhya Pradesh established a non-lapseable fund in 1952-53 with a small contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs a year. No other State has yet established such a Fund.

(b) According to the proposal made by the Planning Commission, the Irrigation Development (Ways and Means) Fund was intended to include contributions from the general revenues, proceeds of betterment fees and receipts of loans raised by the States, as well as such assistance from the Central Government in the form of loans and grants as might be feasible.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the funds collected under this Act would be spent only for productive irrigation purposes or whether they will be spent for unproductive irrigation works also?

Shri Hathi: These are questions of detail. They have not been examined.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the creation of this fund would

involve any change in the existing financial and accounting procedure relating to irrigation works?

Shri Hathi: There will be no change in the accounting procedure in this behalf.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this development fund will include the loan from beneficiaries as contemplated by the Planning Commission?

Shri Hathi: It would normally include that.

श्री एन० एल० जोशी : जि० २ राज्यों में यह फंड बन चुके हैं, उन में अभी तक केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कितनी सहायता दी है ?

Shri Hathi: This fund has been created only by Madhya Pradesh, and by no other State.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether Government have any idea of the exact amount so far contributed to this fund?

Shri Hathi: Only Madhya Pradesh has a fund, and I think, initially they had some Rs. 10 lakhs.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether some basis will be adopted for levying betterment fees?

Shri Hathi: It will depend upon the States themselves.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the receipts from betterment fees, water rate and irrigation cess are to go to constitute this fund?

Shri Hathi: Yes. They will form a part of this betterment fund.

Shri N. Somana: What is the percentage of Central grant to this fund?

Shri Hathi: It will depend upon each particular project first.

SALT PETER INDUSTRY

*1619, **Shri M. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the condition of salt peter industry at present in India;

(b) the amount of salt peter imported from abroad before, during and after the World War II, and produced during the same period within the country; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the condition of this industry and the labourers engaged in this industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 22.]

Shri Dhusia: May I know whether this industry is self-sufficient, and if it is not, what are the difficulties of making it self-sufficient?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If "self-sufficiency" means whether we import potassium nitrate, I might say that although we have given a quota of 40 per cent. for imports, nothing really comes in. Apparently, what is produced here is adequate. We also export small quantities. In 1950-51, we exported 215 tons. In 1951-52 we exported 99 tons, and a smaller quantity in the next six months—28 tons. But the estimated possibilities of production are somewhere in the region of 5,000 tons. The actual production falls short of it, and ranges between 3,000 tons and below? All that I can say is that there does seem to be enough potassium nitrate for the purposes on hand, though we do import a different type of nitrate, called Chilean nitrate, for agricultural purposes and also for industrial purposes

TEA CHESTS

*1620. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the plywood industry is getting sufficient amount of Andaman woods to manufacture tea-chests?

(b) If so, what amount of wood was supplied to the industry in the year 1951-52?

(c) When is the plywood industry in India expected to export tea-chests to other countries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). 10,670 tons of Andaman ply logs were supplied which covered about 35 per cent. of the requirements of factories in Calcutta area.

(c) Export of tea chests is already on the Open General Licence.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the plywood industry in India is using woods other than Andaman woods, and whether they are also using imported woods?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If Andaman woods form only 35 per cent. of the total requirements of our plywood industry, as I have stated in the answer, it follows that they are

using other woods, but I believe they are largely using what is produced internally.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that the export of tea chests is in the O. G. L. May I know whether any amount has been exported to Ceylon and what is the ground for refusal of the exported goods by Ceylon?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Shri Sarmah: Has India produced her full requirements of tea chests?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: For the current half year, we are not allowing any imports. It therefore follows that what we produce is adequate.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether Government have received any complaints that our tea chests do not stand the wear and tear of export?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government have received no specific complaints, but they have seen complaints in the newspapers.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the maximum use is made of the available plywood in the country, and may I also know the States from which it is supplied?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to the first question, it is a matter of opinion. If no plywood is imported, then apparently the maximum use is made of plywood available in the country. If the hon. Member wants information with regard to State-wise production, I would like to have notice.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know whether it is a fact that the sale of our tea in countries like the U.S.A. is handicapped by the poor quality of our tea chests, and if so, what steps are being taken by Government to improve the quality of our tea chests?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Indian Standards Institution have prescribed certain standards for tea chest and there is a voluntary system of inspection now in vogue in order to see that the quality is maintained. I have seen complaints, particularly in U. K. papers, about the quality of our tea chests. At the same time, I have also seen encomiums paid to our plywood manufacturers by experts. Recently, there was an expert here under one of the technical aid programmes—a gentleman by name Mr. Cramer. He has been speaking everywhere and his speeches are reported in the papers. He has