

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

said that the quality of Indian plywood is quite as good as the plywood produced in any other country.

Shri Matthen: May I know whether the plywood factories in Malabar and Travancore-Cochin are fed entirely by the timber from that area, or are they depending upon imported timber also?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: For specific questions regarding particular areas, I must ask for notice.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

*1621. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far on the community projects that are under progress and results achieved in each case;

(b) whether it is a fact that complaints of delay in sanction of fund for the community projects works have been made to the Government of India; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The total expenditure incurred on community projects upto 31st December 1952 is Rs. 15,15,128. A summary of the quarterly report for each Project/Block is laid on the Table. [Placed in Library. See No. S-41/53.]

(b) There were some complaints in the initial stages.

(c) Programmes and budgets have been finalised after personal discussion with the representatives of the State Governments. Powers have been delegated to Development Commissioners in most of the States with a view to giving speedy sanction to schemes. The other States which have not delegated powers have been asked to take early action in this regard.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the progress of the community projects has suffered for want of inter-departmental co-operation and for want of suppliers and equipments.

Shri Hathi: In the initial stages, there was this difficulty. Subsequently, just after a couple of months the powers were delegated to the Development Commissioners, and thereafter the progress has been satisfactory in most of the cases.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether any evaluation of works done by these projects have been conducted by the Planning Commission, and if so, what have been their findings?

Shri Hathi: The Planning Commission has set up an evaluation section. The officers in this section will tour round and look to the results, and find out what work has yet to be done.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the project officers have made any contacts with the authorities of the colleges in regard to the students participating in the community development projects, and if so, may I know whether Government have sanctioned any money for the boarding, lodging and transport arrangements of such students?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir. The project officers and the State Governments have contacted students. In fact, in one of the States the engineering students and the medical students of the college did visit the project area. They did work in the engineering part of it and also in the health part of it.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Can I have an idea of the number of colleges participating in this way?

Shri Hathi: I cannot give the exact number, but there were two or three colleges which did take part.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Prime Minister is reported to have recorded that Assam leads in the matter of the progress achieved so far. Are there any special reasons for the same? May I enquire why other States have lagged behind especially because the official pattern and control are the same? Is it because of powers have not been delegated?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I did express my gratification at the work done in Assam. I accept the same thing in regard to a number of other centres. It is rather difficult to go in for invidious comparisons in this matter, but I would like to say, after going through all the reports, that roughly speaking 25 per cent. of the Community Project centres are doing extraordinarily well—that is far beyond expectations. About 30 per cent. or so are doing well; about another 30 or 35 per cent. are doing fairly well and about 10 per cent. are doing badly. That is the general impression I have formed.

Shri Punnoose: Are the black sheep (the community project centres) which were behaving badly, now behaving better?