

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Again, Sir, I am at a loss to understand the exact import of the question. This particular gentleman came in regard to a possible business agreement. If the hon. Member is referring to the Ford Foundation, it is a different matter altogether. But barring these, I cannot think of anybody else.

Srimati Renu Chakravarty: Is it a fact that the reason why the American dealers cannot take cottage industry goods from here is because we do not have a regular supply of them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is one of the factors, Sir.

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know whether these experts, Mr. Martinuzzi and others, have been here at the request of the Cottage Industry and Handicrafts Boards?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Martinuzzi is not an expert. He is merely the Manager of a big Departmental Stores in U. S. A. He had come here at our request so that we can discuss with him the possibilities of business.

If I may amplify my answer, Sir, I would like to say that after having surveyed the position here, he selected certain samples and felt that those samples should be tested in the Paris market. The samples were sent to Paris and an exhibition was arranged, I may inform the hon. Members that that exhibition has been successful. He has asked for yet further samples to be sent to America. We do expect something to come out of all these negotiations because Paris seems to have approved of these samples. If they get a favourable reception in America, then we will have to discuss with him how to market the products, whether any experts should be brought out and how much money we have to spend and so on.

INDIAN FERTILIZER MISSION

*505. **Shri S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Indian Fertilizer Mission on the manufacture of Urea and Ammonium Nitrate in various countries has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken; and

(c) whether the recommendations regarding marketing abroad are proposed to be implemented?

The Minister of Production (**Shri K. C. Reddy**): (a) and (b). As I said in reply to starred question No. 31 by Shri K. C. Sodha on the 16th November 1953, the Mission's report has been considered by Government, and in accordance with the Mission's recommendations, tenders for the manufacture of Urea and Ammonium Nitrate have been invited.

(c) No recommendations have been made by the Mission with regard to the marketing of fertilizers abroad.

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know what additional investment would be required for the manufacture of these products?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is very difficult to give a correct estimate. Even the Mission itself did not feel called upon to give firm estimate as regards this matter. The actual cost that will have to be incurred will have to be determined after the tenders that we have called for for alternative schemes have been received. It is only then that we will be in a position to say what capital will be required for financing these projects.

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know whether because of the manufacture of these products, there would be a lowering of the price of the fertilizers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The fertilisers that have been recommended to be produced in this country by this Technical Mission are not being produced now. They will be manufactured for the first time in our country if this project comes into operation. We cannot really compare the costs at present with what the costs would be when the plant goes into production.

Shri S. N. Mishra: Sir, my question is whether because of this additional production there would be any lowering of the prices of the fertilisers.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The question is very general. The prices of what fertilisers? If the hon. Member refers to ammonium sulphate, the fertiliser that is now manufactured at Sindri, the answer is, 'No'. But as regards comparison with the cost of other fertilisers that could be manufactured when the plant goes into operation, we cannot really compare the costs at present with what it will cost when the others that are not now being manufactured are manufactured.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know whether the quantity recommended by the Commission for the manufacture of urea and ammonium nitrate represents the internal requirements of the country or the installed capacity of the plants for utilising waste gases in Sindri?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The Commission have recommended plants capable of a daily production of either 35 tons of urea and 180 tons of ammonium nitrate or in the alternative 70 tons of urea and 110 tons of ammonium nitrate. We cannot say at present what would be the actual requirements of the country during the next few years for these fertilisers. In fact, an organised drive has to be initiated in order to popularise their use so that there could be enough demand for the fertilisers that could be manufactured if and when the plant goes into operation.

REGIONAL STORES PURCHASE COMMITTEE

*506. **Shri S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the recommendations of the Regional Stores Purchase Committee set up in November, 1952, are going to be implemented; and

(b) whether Government have examined the replies to the questionnaire issued to about 50 firms by the Stores Purchase Committee?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) I place on the Table of the House a statement showing the extent to which the recommendations made by the Regional Stores Purchase Committee, London and Washington, have so far been implemented by Government. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 11.]

(b) Presumably the Member is referring to the Questionnaire sent by the Stores Purchase Committee to representative Trade Associations and Chambers of Commerce—not to individual firms. Replies received are at present under the consideration of the Stores Purchase Committee and its final recommendations when received will be examined by Government.

REHABILITATION LOANS

*507. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have granted any rehabilitation loan to the Government of Bihar during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the total amount of that loan?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhowmik): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 9,37,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Has this loan been granted to the Government of Bihar for constructing houses or for any other business?