

QUININE

***947. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of India of quinine;

(b) what part of this requirement is met by indigenous production and what part by imports, both in the form of natural products and in the form of synthetic anti-malarials; and

(c) whether, and if so, to what extent, the cultivation of cinchona has been affected by competition from the synthetic anti-malarials?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The present requirement of quinine in India is estimated to be about 300,000 lbs. per year.

(b) Of the total requirement indicated above, the average percentages of quinine manufactured in the country, imported quinine and synthetics are as below:—

Indigenous quinine	12 p.c.
Imported quinine	21 p.c.
Imported Synthetics (in terms of equivalent quinine salts)	67 p.c.

At present there is no commercial production of synthetic anti-malarials in the country.

(c) During the last World War quinine held the field. Since the end of the War synthetic anti-malarials have been used in an increasing measure, because of their relatively lower cost. There has however, so far been no appreciable effect on the existing cinchona plantations.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any plan to make India self-sufficient in the matter of quinine?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the time fixed by which it is expected that India will be self-sufficient?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is under consideration a factory at

Anaimalai Hills to produce more quinine. Then we will be producing nearly 150 lakh lbs. of quinine and we will be self-sufficient.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any plan for the production of synthetic anti-malarials in India, and if so, what is the programme for that?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is at present a plan to set up a factory at Rishra in West Bengal by the Imperial Chemical Industries.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Is any research being carried on to prepare anti-malarial drugs from Indian drugs?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Besides quinine, I do not know of anything.

Dr. Rama Rao: What steps are Government taking to take up the manufacture of synthetic anti-malarials in view of the hon. Minister's statement just now that there is increasing demand for it?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Not that I know of.

RICE AGREEMENT WITH BURMA

***949. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into a three-year agreement with Burma under which the latter will supply 2,30,000 tons of rice on Government-to-Government account basis and 1,20,000 tons through trade; and

(b) if so, whether any rice is proposed to be imported from Burma during the year 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Under the Indo-Burma Trade Agreement of September, 1951, the Government of India were assured of a supply from Burma of 2,30,000 tons of rice on Government-to-Government basis and 1,20,000 tons through trade during every year from 1952 to 1955.

(b) Yes.