

LOK SABHA

Monday, 13th September, 1954.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SOAP INDUSTRY

*819. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of demand in respect of soap met by cottage industry and factories respectively;

(b) the steps that Government propose to take for developing the soap industry; and

(c) whether any financial aid has been given by Government to this industry during the last three years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) No precise estimate of relative percentages is possible. Organised Industry produces between 83,000 to 87,000 tons annually. A rough estimate of production on a cottage industry basis can be placed at 30,000 tons.

(b) and (c). The mechanised units in the soap industry are well-organised and the question of financial aid to them has not so far been raised. The smaller units were given financial assistance by way of subsidy and loans through the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board, as follows:—

	Subsidy	Loans
	Rs.	Rs.
1953-54	97,000	1,65,000
1954-55 (April upto 31st August 54)	19,550	37,750

Shri D. C. Sharma: Of the factories that are manufacturing soap in this country, how many are foreign and how many are indigenous?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not got a list of the indigenous factories. The foreign-owned factories are three, or rather, in three, there is a certain amount of foreign capital.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether Government have any knowledge of the per capita consumption of soap in this country, and how it compares with that in other countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question of working out the per capita consumption is merely a matter of arithmetic, because if the production by the organised units is about 87,000 tons, and the cottage industry produces about 30,000 tons in comes to 1,07,000 tons. Certainly in comparison with other countries of the world, with a few exceptions, India is very far below than any other civilized country, in the consumption of soap.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether Government are aware of the low quality of the detergents, washing soaps and toilet soaps produced by the cottage industries, and if so, whether when giving aid or subsidy, Government have thought of any steps to improve the quality or to have the quality assured?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That seems to be the aim of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, not merely to help these small units in utilising non-edible oils for making soap, but also to improve the quality all the time.

Shrimati Ha Palchoudhury: How much soap must be produced by these

small cottage industry units, to enable them to get their chemicals at wholesale rates?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a problem which has never been looked at from the angle the hon. lady Member suggests, and I am unable to answer the question one way or the other.

ENGINEERING PERSONNEL

*821. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked all the States to prepare a list of all the engineering personnel in each State; and

(b) the steps that are proposed to be taken to increase the technical engineering personnel?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have set up a Committee to report on the requirements of technical personnel of various categories needed for the efficient and expeditious completion of river valley projects now under execution and to be executed during the next 15 years. The Committee has been asked to submit its report by the 31st December, 1954.

A scheme has been introduced to impart training to 30 fresh engineering graduates and 15 serving engineering officers from the States at the major river valley projects.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the Planning Commission have assessed at any time up to this day, the shortage that we are suffering from in the technical requirements of our country?

Shri Hathi: There is a register of engineers, but looking to the developments and the projects that we are having, it has been found necessary to have a fresh assessment of the question.

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I may supplement that and say that a working group or a study group in the Planning Commission is already engaged in the collection of data about shortages of personnel in the various Ministries, and in connection with various industries.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the total number of non-Indian technical personnel just at present employed in our river valley projects?

Shri Hathi: It is to the tune of about 64.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether it is a fact that among the personnel now employed in the river valley projects, ninety per cent. are from Punjab only?

Shri Hathi: No, that is not a fact.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Not from Travancore-Cochin.

Shri Gidwani: It was stated by the hon. Minister that there is dearth of qualified men. Is it contemplated that the work is being carried on by people who are not qualified, and therefore, it has resulted in such a huge loss in various projects?

Shri Hathi: No, that is not so. It is not that the work is being carried on by people who are not experienced. But as the work proceeds we want more trained men.

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA

*822. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the criticism of a statement made by the Indian High Commissioner in Australia at Brisbane on the 21st June, 1954;

(b) whether the text of his statement will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) if so, what are the points, which have been made the subject of criticism?