

the inclusion of betel leaves in the Indo-Pak Trade Agreement; and

(b) the estimated number of families depending upon betel leaf cultivation in India at present?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir. We did, at the time a trade agreement was being negotiated.

(b) Government have no information.

हीरों के औजार

*१०३०. { श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :
श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री :

क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विन्ध्य प्रदेश में पन्ना की खानों से प्राप्त हीरे औजार और उपकरण बनाने के लिये उपयुक्त हैं; और

(ख) क्या भारत सरकार ने कोई ऐसा कारखाना खोलने का प्रबन्ध किया है जिस में इन हीरों का उपयोग किया जा सके ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no proposal to start a factory of their own.

STORES PURCHASES

*1031. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "State Purchase Corporation" is proposed to be formed; and

(b) what commission was paid to the middlemen for foreign and indigenous purchases in 1953-54?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The matter is under examination of the Stores Purchase Committee, appointed by the Government to examine the working of the Central Purchase Organisation and its policy and procedure.

(b) I am not in a position to say what Commission they received from their principals, Government did not pay them any.

ADVISORY BOARDS

*1032. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) how many Part 'A' States have approved of the scheme for setting up non-official Advisory Boards; and

(b) how many of the States have actually set up such Boards?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

TEA

*1033. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable decline in the export of tea from this country recently; and

(b) if so, the main reasons for this?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The tempo of increase in exports of tea is generally being maintained. But in the first half of 1954 there was some decline as compared to the first half of 1953.

(b) Lesser production in 1953 crop particularly in North India is due to bad weather conditions and voluntary crop restriction.