

owners in respect of 163-235 acres. Payment in respect of the remaining area is in progress and it is hoped that it will be completed during this financial year.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The clock is out of order.

Mr. Speaker: I have said that already.

The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS COLOMBO PLAN

***399. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of aid India is getting during the year 1952-53 from different countries under the Colombo Plan?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I would invite the attention of the Member to the statement laid on the Table of the House in reply to question No. 170 on the 26th May, 1952.

INDIAN COMPANIES ACT

***407. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have taken any action under clause 7, Sec. 153 (c) (2) of the Indian Companies Act on the information supplied to them?

(b) Has any further information been brought to the notice of Government by any member of any company for taking action under Sec. 153 (c) (2)?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Some of the more glaring cases, which I referred to in course of discussion on the Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill, are being pursued with reference to sub-section (2) of section 153C of the Indian Companies Act. In one of these cases, a report from the Inspector is expected to be received shortly. In two other cases, share holders have themselves submitted applications to the Court under sub-section (1) of section 153C; the Government would have an opportunity of being heard in due course under sub-section (3) of section 153D. Two other companies have since gone into voluntary liquidation. Shareholders of another company have filed a petition to the Court for compulsory winding-up.

2. Inquiries into the affairs of some other companies have been initiated through the State Governments. The

nature of action which could be taken in each case would depend on the findings and their relevance to section 153C. Under that section it is not only necessary to prove that the affairs of a company are conducted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the company or oppressive to some part of the members but also that the facts disclose such a state of affairs as would justify the making of a winding up order. It is, therefore necessary to collect information in regard to the continuing irregularities, if any, and to correlate it to the past transactions. The Government are trying to collect such information in regard to some of those cases.

ENERGY FROM SUN-HEAT

***408. Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether some project has been developed to produce stoves to be fuelled by the sun's rays?

(b) If so, when are such stoves expected to come into the market and what will be their estimated price?

(c) Are Government aware as to whether any such efforts are being made by any private individuals?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The National Physical Laboratory of India has been carrying out research to utilise solar energy including production of cheap solar cookers. Experimental models of such cookers have been made and the question of their production on a commercial scale is under consideration. It is estimated that the cost of a small cooker producing heat equivalent to 250 watts would be between Rs. 50 and Rs. 60.

(c) The National Physical Laboratory of India has carried out a survey of past literature on utilization of solar energy and the survey showed that several experiments have been carried out both in India and in other countries to cook food with solar heat and these have met with varying success. The National Physical Laboratory, is, however, working to produce a cheap solar cooker.

SCHEDULED CASTES

***409. Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what is the total population of the Scheduled Castes within the Republic of India?

(b) What amount of money is being spent by this Government for the