

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Ambernath Mills have been temporarily closed since the 11th May, 1952, pending finalisation of negotiations for their lease to a syndicate of displaced persons. The terms of the lease have been settled and the mills will reopen shortly as soon as necessary formalities have been completed.

(b) 998.

CUT IN CIVIL AVIATION FUEL

148. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether Government propose to impose a cut in the fuel consumption for civil aviation?

(b) If so, what is the percentage of the cut which is going to be effected?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). A cut was imposed for 28 days only, with effect from 15th May 1952. Originally, the cut was 35 per cent. based on the offtake of aviation spirit for the full month of April 1952, but subsequently the cut was reduced to 22 per cent. for the whole 28 day period. All restrictions are being removed and normal consumption restored from the 12th instant.

MINOR AND MAJOR PROJECTS

149. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state what are the comparative figures (State-wise) for money spent on minor irrigation projects in comparison with that advanced for multi-purpose major projects during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52?

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda): The information is being collected from the State Governments concerned and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

PASSPORTS

150. Shri Raghavaiah: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of applications received for passports to U.K. and U.S.A. during the years 1948 to 1951?

(b) What was the number of applications received for passports to U.S.S.R. and the People's Republic of China and East European Countries during that period?

(c) Were all the applicants granted passports?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). It is not possible to furnish the information asked for by the hon. Member as no record is kept of passports granted country-wise.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

151. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of imports from

(i) United States of America;

(ii) United Kingdom; and

(iii) Russia

during the years 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952; and

(b) the total value of exports from India to

(i) U.S.A.;

(ii) United Kingdom; and

(iii) Russia

for the above period?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 30.]

POLITICAL PENSION TO FOREIGN REFUGEES

153. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the amount of political pension being paid at present to foreign refugees and descendants of persons who rendered service abroad with the names of recipients and the nature of service rendered?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There are no foreign refugees or descendants of persons, who rendered service abroad, in receipt of political pensions from the present Government. There are, however, at present 23 Afghan refugees in India who are in receipt of maintenance allowances from Government. Their names and the monthly maintenance allowance drawn by each of them are shown in the list attached. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 31.]

None of these refugees has rendered any service to the Government of India. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No. 200 by Lala Raj Kanwar on 1st December, 1949.

FOREIGN PUBLICITY

154. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the

agency employed and the amount being spent annually for foreign publicity during the last five years?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): India's foreign publicity is conducted by our missions abroad, assisted in some instances by Information Officers.

The amount spent annually during the last five years is as follows:—

1947-48, Rs. 8,68,300

1948-49, Rs. 25,35,210

1949-50, Rs. 33,51,200

1950-51, Rs. 30,25,842

1951-52, Rs. 37,53,100.

FARIDABAD AND NILOKHERI TOWNSHIPS

155. Prof. Agarwal: (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total investment made by the Government of India in the Nilokheri development project?

(b) Have the small-scale industries at Nilokheri been affected by the recent slump, if so, to what extent?

(c) Is there any unemployment in the Nilokheri and Faridabad townships, at present, and if so, to what extent?

(d) Which other small-scale industries are proposed to be introduced in the Faridabad and Nilokheri townships?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (d). The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

ALUMINIUM

156. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what has been the production of Aluminium in India year by year from 1947 to 1952?

(b) What have been the costs of production and the selling prices per ton year by year?

(c) What have been the foreign prices per ton year by year?

(d) What has been the total consumption of Aluminium in India year by year during these years?

(e) What is the cause of the great difference between foreign prices and costs of production?

(f) What steps are being taken by Government to improve the efficiency of the factories producing Aluminium?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 32.]

(e) There are several causes, the most important being (i) non-availability of power at cheap rates, (ii) production capacity of the plants being not as high as it should be for their economic running, (iii) comparably high costs of raw material used in the manufacture of aluminium and (iv) Indian bauxite being more expensive to mine.

(f) In order to reduce the cost of production, expanded capacity has been sanctioned for both the existing producers.

HIRAKUD RECLAMATION CENTRES

157. Dr. Natabar Pandey: Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage of land reclaimed so far in the Hirakud Reclamation Centres for rehabilitating the people affected so far by the Hirakud Reclamation Centres; and

(b) out of the land reclaimed referred to in part (a), how many acres have been made ready for cultivation?

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

HIRAKUD RECLAMATION CENTRES

158. Dr. Natabar Pandey: Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land in the different Hirakud Reclamation Centres have been cultivated departmentally and how many acres through annual leases; and

(b) the yield of crops in different areas referred to in part (a) above?

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

HIRAKUD DAM

159. Dr. Natabar Pandey: Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses, schools, temples and wells for drinking water