

setting up autonomous bodies, the Public Service Commission has been authorised to make appointments?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is trying to argue.

Shri A. C. Guha: That has been done in recent legislations.

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of argument.

Shri A. C. Guha: Some modification in the law.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He may proceed to the next question.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any proposal to change the law in view of the irregularities?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question No. 1049.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, I have four questions in my name. If I am allowed to put only three, I would like to forego this (No. 1049), and I would put only No. 1054.

Mr. Speaker: He may take his chance. If it is not reached, he would not be able to put it. So, the hon. Member is, not putting Question No. 1049?

Shri A. C. Guha: I am not putting it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: No. 1050.

TRADE BALANCE

*1050. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the main reasons for the contrast between favourable balance of Rs. 21.42 crores in 1950-51 and trade deficit of over Rs. 156 crores in 1951-52?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to improve the trade balance of our country?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The main reasons for heavier adverse balance of trade in 1951-52 were:—

(i) Large imports of foodgrains.

(ii) Large imports of cotton and certain other important raw materials.

(b) The special reasons referred to in (a) above are not likely to prevail, to the same extent in future. Besides, Government adjust from time to time, their export and import policies suitably.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is it a fact that accumulation of stocks of some non-essential goods has been made in this country because of the import policy,

and, if so, what are those goods?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: What is the total amount spent on the import of luxury goods?

Shri Karmarkar: We have banned the import of luxury goods. It depends upon what he considers to be luxury goods.

NON-ESSENTIAL CONSUMER GOODS (IMPORT)

*1051. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the import figures of non-essential consumer goods during the second half of the year 1951?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): I do not know what consumer goods the hon. Member regards as non-essential goods. If a list of such items is supplied, the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

For my own information we had a small list of what are considered as non-essential goods: Animals living, apparel, furniture, tobacco manufactures, wood and timber manufactures, postal articles, etc. The whole of it from July to December came to Rs. 5,80,00,000—if these are considered non-essential articles.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Will the hon. Minister repeat? We cannot hear.

Shri Karmarkar: I do not know what consumer goods the hon. Member regards as non-essential goods. If a list of such items is supplied, the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the Government imports face powders, cosmetics.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Karmarkar: They are non-essentials. We are discouraging the import of such articles.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether lipsticks are allowed to be imported?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

COAL IN ASSAM AND NORTH BENGAL

*1052. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a vast reserve of coal in Assam, Garo Hills and in Bagracota of North Bengal;

(b) if so, why these fields are not being worked; and

(c) what is the cost price of coal at the fields from which coal is being supplied and at what prices it reaches North Bengal via Pakistan Steamer route?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The estimated reserves in Garo Hills are 115 million tons and in Bagracota 20 million tons.

(b) The main difficulty in working the deposits in the Garo Hills is their inaccessibility, there being no road or Railway to or near the coalfield.

The Dalingkot mines in the Bagracota area are being worked by a private party. It is open to any private party to work the fields after obtaining the necessary mining lease from the State Government.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House showing the pit-head prices of coal produced in Assam, Bagracota and Bengal/Bihar fields. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 43].

Coal from the Bengal/Bihar fields supplements the requirements of Assam and North Bengal.

No coal is at present being supplied to North Bengal via Pakistan Steamer route.

Shri Barman: With regard to (c), when a statement is said to be laid on the Table, it is generally hung up against the name of the Member in whose name the question stands. I do not find the statement there.

Mr. Speaker: The matter will be looked into by the Secretary.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Does the Chair want me to read the statement?

Mr. Speaker: Is it a long statement?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is all figures.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Member study the statement; that would be better. Then he would be more exact in his supplementaries. We go on to the next question.

I find so far as Mr. Barman's getting a copy of the statement is concerned, his name was added at the end of the List as the statement was received a bit late. He may put the next question now. Yes, question No. 1053.

FERTILISER PRODUCTION

*1053. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the quantity of fertiliser to be produced in Sindri in 1952?

(b) What is the plan of distribution in 1952?

(c) How much is allocated to cash crop and to cereal production?

(d) How is such distribution made with imported fertiliser?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) About 2,00,000 tons.

(b) The entire quantity of fertilizers to be produced at the Sindri Fertilizer Factory till the end of 1952 has been sold to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture who will take it into their Central Fertilizer Pool. The supplies thus purchased are pooled with the imported material and are distributed among the State Governments and other commercial and industrial interests, according to their demands, at a uniform pool price fixed on a "no-profit-no-loss basis". The distribution of the fertilizers within the States is the responsibility of the Governments concerned.

(c) Uptil now 22,000 tons of Sindri product have been allotted to cash crops (19,000 tons for the Tea industry in North East India and 3,000 tons for cotton extension in Madhya Pradesh) and a quantity of 47,500 tons has been allotted to various State Governments. The Government of India have at present no specific information how the State Governments distribute the supplies between cash and cereal crops.

(d) The answer is contained in the answer to (b).

Shri Barman: Sir, in view of the fact that the total production of the Sindri Fertilizer Factory will not be sufficient for our purpose, do Government contemplate to instal any other fertilizer factory in the near future?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The answer, Sir, is that so far as ammonium sulphate is concerned, when we reach maximum production, our requirements will be almost met by the production in the Sindri Factory. Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to other kinds of fertilizers regarding which Government are taking steps to produce.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether the use of fertilizers requires any special knowledge and if so, what steps have Government taken to impart such knowledge to the people who want to use fertilizers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware that any special knowledge is required for the use of fertilizers. I think the question may appropriately be answered by the Minister of Food and Agriculture.