

(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.

Shri Telkikar: What are the different kinds of fertilisers that are manufactured in Sindri Factory?

Mr. Speaker: Order, Order.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the hon. Minister tell us as to what is the exact price which the State Governments are expected to pay to the Central Government per maund of the fertilizer and what is the amount that the agriculturist is expected to pay to the Government?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I regret, Sir, I am not in a position to give the hon. Member the cost price per maund but I can give the figure of the price per ton.

Mr. Speaker: His point seems to be whether the Government i.e. the State Governments are making any profit.

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is a separate question regarding that. The factory is selling at Rs. 350 per ton to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The imported stuff is costing somewhere about between Rs. 380 and Rs. 400. The pool price is about Rs. 380 per ton. This is the price at which the stuff is supplied F.O.R. Sindri or F.O.R. any port and then the Ministry of Food and Agriculture supplies to various States and some growers of commercial crops and to that price is added the freight charges or the railway charges respectively.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government have got any machinery for testing the quality of the fertilizers produced especially because there is an allegation that the fertilizer produced at Alwaye factory is acidic?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Regarding the Alwaye factory I am not in a position to answer the question. So far as the fertilizer at Sindri is concerned, I have no definite information to give to the hon. Member just now. I presume there must be some machinery to test the quality.

Shri Kasliwal: Is the Government aware of the pamphlet recently issued by Mirababen advising the agriculturists against the use of these fertilizers?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I remember to have read that pamphlet. But what are the actual contents of it, I am not in a position to say.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether the Government will distribute these fertilizers through the Agriculture Ministry or through any other Ministry?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The greater quantity is being distributed, Sir, by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. They have got their own arrangements with the respective States and the States either get the stuff distributed through the commission agents or in some cases through the co-operative societies.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the reply yesterday as to the cost of production, the fertilizer is being supplied now at Rs. 350 or whatever it is without knowing the cost of production?

Shri K. C. Reddy: What I said yesterday was that the ultimate cost of production I am not in a position to say now because when we reach the target of our production, then the cost of production will certainly be lower but regarding the present cost of production I will give an answer to the hon. Member if he gives me a separate notice of the question.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that the Madras Government has organised the distribution of these fertilizers to private companies, there is blackmarketing going on for the last one year?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware of it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Next question now.

DIVERSION OF ORDERS FOR JUTE GOODS

*1054. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reports in newspapers that a considerable portion of U.S.A. Hessian orders have gone to the Continental firms;

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the reasons for this position and whether they have taken any steps to counteract this tendency; and

(c) what are the Continental countries which have recently started jute mills?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House to starred question No. 18 by Shri Munishwar Datt Upadhyay on the 19th May, 1952.