

PIG IRON FACTORY

*1921. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh**: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been finally decided to erect the "Pig Iron Factory" in Madhya Pradesh instead of having it in "Orissa";

(b) what is the "Steel Plant Committee's" report in connection with this steel project; and

(c) what is the scheduled time fixed for the completion of this project?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No; the matter is still under consideration.

(b) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the Steel Consultants' Projects Reports on new steel works. If so, a copy of the summary of these Reports was placed on the Table of the House on the 7th April, 1949, vide supplementary to Seth Govind Das' starred question No. 834 of the 3rd March, 1949.

(c) The project is still under negotiations and it cannot be stated at present when it will be completed.

JUTE USED BY SILK MILLS

*1922. **Shri Madiah Gowda**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity and cost of jute that has been consumed by the spun silk mills every year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No jute is consumed by the spun silk mills. If, however, the hon. Member intended to know the quantity and value of silk waste (which is also known as "JHOOT" in the trade) consumed by the spun silk mills, the information is given in the statement placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 28.]

LAKKAVALLI PROJECT (MYSORE)

*1923. **Shri Madiah Gowda**: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lakkavalli Project (Mysore), is one of the projects that has been considered by the Planning Commission in fixing priorities;

(b) what the estimated amount for the said project is;

(c) what amount has been expended for the project up till now; and

(d) when the project is expected to be completed?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 20 crores.

(c) About Rs. 92 lakhs.

(d) The first stage of the project is expected to be completed by 1955-56.

SALT CESS

*1924. **Shri A. K. Gopalan**: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cess or levy in the production of salt and the total annual revenue from this source;

(b) the reason for the levy of this salt cess; and

(c) any specific purpose for which the revenue from salt cess is to be used?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Attention is invited to replies to parts (a) and (b) of the unstarred question No. 361 on the 8th July 1952.

(b) and (c). The cess is levied to meet the cost of the Salt Organisation.

SALT DISTRIBUTION

*1925. **Shri A. K. Gopalan**: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) what is the machinery for the distribution of salt;

(b) whether the distribution is entirely done by the Central Government, through its nominees;

(c) the list of Government nominees State by State;

(d) the annual amount spent by the Government on administration of salt distribution; and

(e) whether Government is considering the question of leaving the distribution to private agencies, and if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Government of India allocate quotas to each State from the different salt sources for being moved by rail on a priority basis in accordance with the Zonal Scheme of Distribution. They exercise no control over the movement of salt either by rail on non-priority basis or by road, river and sea. Some of the States have