

appointed their own nominees to import salt from the salt sources and distribute it to their approved retailers. In other States the import and distribution of salt are effected through the normal trade channels.

(b) The Government of India have not appointed any nominees for the distribution of salt. The internal distribution of salt within each State is the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No separate establishment is maintained by Government exclusively for the distribution of salt. The annual expenditure on staff for distribution work may however be estimated at about Rs. 2 lacs.

(e) Government do not at present contemplate any change in the existing system of distribution.

LOTS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN MANIPUR

*1926. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took or are taking steps to allot plots in and around the Imphal town, to the middle class displaced persons in Manipur; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the local people have protested against any such allotment?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

EAST AFRICAN COTTON (ALLOCATION)

*1927. **Shri S. G. Parikh:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile mills were asked to state their requirements of East African Cotton before negotiations were initiated for the bulk purchases by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports;

(b) whether it is a fact that after purchase of the same, instead of allocating it on the basis of needs the Joint Chief Controller of Imports allocated it on the principle of average consumption;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative what were the reasons for this decision;

(d) whether Government are aware that the change in the policy of allocation of East African Cotton has created

resentment and has affected production of the relevant variety of cloth; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes; but only those mills that received allocations of East African cotton during the last season were so asked.

(b) Yes; allocations were made on the basis of average consumption of like varieties of cotton during the three years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49.

(c) There has been no departure from the procedure followed last season.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of answer to part (c).

STATE PURCHASE CORPORATION

*1928. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) when Government propose to set up a State Purchase Corporation;

(b) at what stage the proposal is at present;

(c) when they propose to finalise it; and

(d) what is the proposed composition of the Corporation?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swan Singh): The matter is under consideration of the Government of India.

MINES BOARDS OF HEALTH

*1929. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Hyderabad have since enacted legislation on the lines of Bihar and Orissa Mining Settlement Act, 1930;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Mines Boards of Health have been constituted at Kothagudium and Bellampalli?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) No; they are examining that question.

(b) Does not arise.

छोटे रेशे वाले कपास के दाम

*१९३०. श्री चण्डक : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा

करेंगे कि क्या छोट रेसो वाले कपास के न्यूनतम दाम निश्चित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है और यदि है तो उसने इस बारे में क्या निश्चय किया है ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
No.

JUTE MILLS

*1931. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jute Mills in India and their producing capacity per annum;

(b) the quantity and value of jute goods produced by them during the last three years (year-wise);

(c) the quantity of domestic raw jute supplied to these Mills in each of these years;

(d) the quantity of raw jute supplied by import in each of these years; and

(e) whether there is any scheme before Government for increased production of jute and development of jute industry; if so, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) There are 112 jute mills in India with a capacity for producing 1.2 million tons of jute goods per annum.

(b) —

Year (July-June)	Production in '000 tons
1949-50	858
1950-51	892
1951-52 (July-May)	871 (Only for IJMA mills)

Value figures are not reported.

(c) and (d). The hon. Member's attention is invited to the information furnished in reply to part (a) of unstarred question No. 264 by Shri Meghnad Saha on the 26th June 1952.

(e) The question of increased production of raw jute and development of jute industry is receiving active consideration by the Planning Commission. Schemes when finalised will be incorporated in the five year plan.

RESCUE BRIGADES

*1933. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of whole time Rescue Brigades working

at Jharia and Raniganj Coal Mines Rescue Stations;

(b) how many colliery workers have been trained up-to-date in rescue operations from these Rescue Stations; and

(c) whether there is any arrangement in these Rescue Stations to maintain the efficiency of these rescue workers by periodical refresher courses and medical examination?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Three.

(b) 1029.

(c) Yes, as provided for in the Coal Mines Rescue Rules, 1939.

MINIMUM WAGES FOR PLANTATION LABOUR

*1934. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what are the steps taken by Government to enforce the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act to the Plantation Labour in the Travancore-Cochin State and how far they have succeeded?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): The Government of Travancore-Cochin State, which is responsible for the fixation of minimum rates of wages in Plantations under the Minimum Wages Act appointed a Committee under Section 5(1)(a) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The report submitted by the Committee is being examined by that Government. It is hoped that the rates will be fixed shortly.

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR INDIAN MISSIONS

*1935. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any rules laid down for recruitment of staff to various Missions abroad;

(b) whether there is any percentage fixed for permanent posts; and

(c) whether the Head of the Mission has any discretion in this matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) There are different sets of rules for recruitment to the various categories of posts for our missions abroad. Some of these posts are India-based, others are locally recruited. The higher diplomatic and consular posts are filled by officers of the Indian Foreign Service, recruitment to which is now made through a competitive examination.

Officers for India-based ministerial and other junior posts are drawn for the most part from the Central Secretariat Service.