

ing the year 1951-52 and how it compares with the exports figures of the year 1950-51;

(b) what was the total quantity and value of exports from India during the six months preceding the reduction in export duty; and

(c) the total value and quantity of exports from India after the reduction in duty and the reasons for reduced exports?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The total quantity of jute goods exported from India during the year 1951-52, (April-March) was 8,08,985 tons valued at Rs. 270 crores against 6,48,844 tons valued at Rs. 114 crores in the same months of the year 1950-51.

(b) Total export during the six months preceding May 1952 when the last reduction in export duty took place was 3,92,600 tons valued at Rs. 118 crores.

(c) The quantity exported during May, 1952, was 69,818 tons valued at Rs. 14.99 crores. During June, 1952 66,690 tons valued approximately at Rs. 14 crores were passed for shipment. Though there was no reduction in respect of quantity there was a fall in value due to reduction in export duty and fall in prices.

REPORT ON BUILDING WORKS

***2045. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Experts for Building Works has submitted its Report; and

(b) if so, what are the chief features of that Report?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Report are available in the Library of the House. The Committee's main conclusion is that though traditional materials and building methods are generally most economical in this country traditional specifications tend to design over-safe and therefore uneconomic structures. The Committee has drawn up 7 model types of accommodation suitable for housing Government employees in different pay-ranges incorporating their ideas of utility scales of accommodation and design in an attempt to relate the capital cost of the building and its rent, the rent being kept as near as possible to the economic rent. The

Committee has also recommended the establishment of a National Building Organisation to collect, collate and disseminate technical information, as also the setting up of laboratories to test strength of materials and structures.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that some of the recently constructed buildings in Delhi have proved to be very unsatisfactory, may I know, Sir, whether this Committee has also recommended about improving the standard of buildings which are going to be constructed in future?

Shri Buragohain: I have already said, Sir, that the Committee has recommended that here should be 7 types of residential accommodation suitable for housing Government employees in different pay-ranges. They have endeavoured to examine all the aspects of the problem involved and in recommending the types of houses they have paid attention to the following factors: (a) requirements of health and sanitation, (b) avoidance of discomfort and provision of amenities usually associated with living standards of the different income groups, and (c) relation between the capital cost of a building and its rent, the rent being as nearly as possible an economic rent in case of higher income groups. In case of lower income groups, however, the economic rent is higher than the rent actually recoverable.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Has this Committee made any suggestions in regard to improving the standards of contractors?

Shri Buragohain: I do not think they have made any recommendation with regard to selection of contractors, but they have certainly suggested economies in the matter of modification of specifications. As an example, I might inform the hon. Member that recently we requested this Committee to go into the specifications and design of estimates made for certain constructions and after examining them they suggested an economy of 26.1 per cent.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, if the report has been circulated to the States for the guidance?

Shri Buragohain: The position, Sir, is that after the report was published it was found out that certain parts of the report have been copied from other publications. The matter was taken up with the Secretary of the Committee and he has admitted to have copied like that, and now the report is being examined for redrafting. After it is done, it will be duly published. At the present moment, some copies are placed

in the Library of the House and it is only for official use.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the admission made by the Minister, has any action been taken on the members of the Committee or on the Secretary?

Shri Buragohain: The only thing, Sir, was that the Committee did not acknowledge this in their report. So if they now make an acknowledgement, I think it will be satisfactory.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Was this Committee consulted when the North and South Avenue buildings were constructed?

Shri Buragohain: I am not quite sure, but I think, Sir, their advice was available also with regard to these constructions.

FRENCH POSSESSION IN INDIA

***2046. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of holding a referendum to settle the future of French settlements in India has been shelved for the present by the French Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The Government have not received any information to this effect.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that conditions in French Settlements in India have considerably deteriorated during the recent months for holding a referendum?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, conditions have deteriorated. They have been in a deteriorated condition for a considerable time.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for this deterioration and how do Government expect to improve them?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are reasons internal to the French Settlements. I have already answered at some length some questions and quoted from a report by certain neutral observers who went there.

डा. रामनारायण सिंह : फ्रेंच सरकार
से रिफरेंडम के बारे में प्रधान मंत्री कोई
लिखा-पढ़ी करते हैं कि नहीं, अगर करते
हैं तो उस का फल क्या होता है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : जो हां, कुछ
बीज बोये थे लेकिन अभी तक दस्त
निकले नहीं हैं ।

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether the transfer of Chandernagore is completed, and if so, how the administration is carried on there at present?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, the *de facto* transfer of Chandernagore took place sometime ago and the *de jure* transfer took place only a short while ago. Immediately after that the existing administration of Chandernagore—some kind of a Municipal administration—became *functus officio* in law and for the moment the Administrator is carrying on pending fresh elections.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, what is the future plan for Chandernagore—whether it will be integrated with West Bengal or kept as a separate unit?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That I cannot say now, except that the people of Chandernagore will be consulted.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, how the matter stands at present with regard to Pondicherry.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It stands where it was.

CEMENT

***2047. Shri Dhusiya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what quantity of cement Government propose to import this year and from where?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The answer is in the negative.

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE

***2050. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) in what places the scheme of Employees' State Insurance is to be implemented in the near future;

(b) what is the experience of the working of the scheme at Kanpur and Delhi; and

(c) how far the co-operation of the employers has been forthcoming?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) It is the present intention to implement the Employees' State