

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RATIONALISATION OF JUTE MILLS

***2048. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jute mills which have adopted any programme of rationalisation of their mills;

(b) the total additional investment made by them for the purpose; and

(c) the increase in out-put and the decrease in cost envisaged?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). "Rationalisation" ordinarily refers to an examination of the production technique in a factory with a view to eliminating surplus labour, waste of material etc. Such examination is always going on in jute mills. From parts (b) and (c), however, it appears that the hon. Member is referring to "modernisation" to which a certain amount of public attention has been drawn recently. While some mills have adopted a policy of modernisation of their machinery it has not yet been completed. A better idea about modernisation can be obtained by my indicating that modern machinery has been installed or is on order in respect of about 9·8 per cent. of the total loomage of the mills in the Indian Jute Mills Association. The investment so far made or proposed is estimated at Rs. 5 crores. Modernisation, however, is not so much intended to increase the total output as to reduce the cost of production. The saving in cost to mills as a result of complete modernisation of preparing and spinning machinery is estimated at 10·5 per cent. of their annual expenditure.

सामूहिक विकास योजना के अधीन स्वास्थ्य तथा मनोरंजन-केन्द्र

***२०४९. सेठ गोविन्द दास क्या योजना** मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि सामूहिक विकास योजना (स्वास्थ्य तथा मनोरंजन केन्द्र) के अधीन उन स्थानों पर क्या क्या विशेष सुविधायें दी जायेगी, जहाँ एक हज़ार से अधिक मजदूरों को काम करना पड़ता है और बड़ी ही कठिन स्थिति में रहना पड़ता है ?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): Schemes are to be framed after a survey of the areas. The health programme is intended to provide for a primary health centre in each *mandi* unit, and a mobile health unit, as well as a secondary health centre at the Headquarters of the Project area.

There will also be a community recreation centre at each *mandi* unit.

ALL INDIA BLIND RELIEF SOCIETY

***2061. Shri Raghavaiah:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how much amount as grant-in-aid is sanctioned by the Government of India to the All India Blind Relief Society for the year 1951-52?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): A sum of Rupees Five thousand was given by the Central Government to the All India Blind Relief Society in 1951-52. In addition, the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund and the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund sanctioned grants of Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 1,000 respectively.

RAW RUBBER (PRICES)

***2062. Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what were the principles on which Government based the current prices of raw rubber; and

(b) till what date Government propose to continue the present rate?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The current prices of raw rubber were fixed on the recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board. The principles followed by the Board in determining the cost of production of rubber are given in paragraph 15 of their Report.

(b) Till the Tariff Commission, which is considering the question of a revision in price, has reported, it will not be possible to say for how long the present date, will continue.

RUBBER PRODUCTION

***2063. Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of rubber in India is sufficient for the requirements of the country; and

(b) if not, what are the steps taken by Government for the development of Rubber Industry?