

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

(b) Yes. A copy of the press note issued in this connection on 16th April 1952 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 53].

(c) Only one declaration was made within the specified time. The declarant has been given the option to retain one of the two houses allotted to him.

RUBBER

***1323. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the price fixed for raw rubber by the Government of India?

(b) How has this fixation of price affected the rubber industry?

(c) What measures Government propose to adopt for placing the industry on a sound footing?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 128/- per 100 lbs. F.O.B. Cochin, for Group I rubber, with suitable differentials for other grades.

(b) Representations have been received from producers that the prices fixed do not make adequate provision for return on capital and for rehabilitation.

(c) The Indian rubber growing industry is a protected industry. The prices mentioned above were fixed on the recommendations of the Indian Tariff Board and were based on the cost of production plus a reasonable margin of profit. In view of the representations received from producers, the question of the revision of these prices has been referred to the Tariff Commission. The industry is protected against foreign competition by allowing imports only to the extent required by the rubber manufacturing industry over and above the indigenous production, thus ensuring a market for indigenous rubber inside the country. Government have also under consideration a development scheme for the industry.

COPYRIGHT ON RADIO TALKS

***1324. Shri Kelappan:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have any copyright in talks, plays and short stories broadcast by All-India Radio;

(b) what are the reasons for retaining this right; and

(c) what is the practice in other countries regarding this matter?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Government have copyright in talks and broadcasting rights in plays and short stories broadcast from All India Radio.

(c) The information is not available.

PROCUREMENT OF DRUGS ETC.

***1325. Shri Thirani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that before World War II a single organisation catered for the procurement of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals required for both the Civil and Military; and

(b) what is the present position?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes. Before the World War II, the Director General, Indian Medical Service, was responsible for the procurement of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals as well as other Medical stores required for both the Civil and the Military sides.

(b) Medical stores both for the Civil and the Military formations, are now procured through the Director-General of Supply under the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN MADRAS

***1340. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the Centres selected for starting of Community Projects in the Madras State; and

(b) if so, of what types?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): Information to part (a) has been supplied in reply to Starred Question No. 623.

(b) All the 6 more Community Projects are of basic types.

IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

***1341. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the programme of Government regarding the expansion of pig iron and steel industry in India; and

(b) whether there is any possibility of U.S. private capital being invested in the pig iron and steel industry in India?