

(c) Information is under collection. Some reductions have been made in the retail prices of packeted teas of the lower grades. Full information in this regard is, however, under collection.

(d) According to the Report of the Official Team deputed to inquire into the tea industry, the level of Auction prices has not been sufficient to meet the production costs of many average-medium estates and smaller gardens.

(e) and (f). No, Sir. But, the question of giving relief to the tea growers in all possible directions is now engaging the attention of the Government of India.

MACHINE TOOLS FACTORY

*967. Shri Thirumalaiah: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Managing Committee or Board for the Machine Tools Factory to be started at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the functions of the Committee or Board?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

COAL DEPOSITS IN MADHYA PRADESH

*968. Sardar A. S. Salkat: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state in how many parts of Madhya Pradesh easily workable coal deposits have been found?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): Thick and fairly easily workable seams are found in the Korba Coalfield, in Bilaspur District and in the Old Korea State, now merged with Madhya Pradesh.

BIMLI JUTE (EXPORT)

*969. Shri K. Subrahmanyam: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government have made any inquiries about the feasibility of exporting Bimil jute to other countries, as the Calcutta jute millers are not purchasing this variety?

(b) Is it a fact that before the export of jute from this country was banned, there was a large market for the commodity abroad?

(c) Have Government received any representations from the jute-growers of Srirakulam and Vakkapatnam Districts in this connection?

(d) Have the Madras Government made any suggestions to the Centre in respect of marketing Bimil jute and if so, what are they?

(e) Is it a fact that large scale smuggling of jute from East Bengal is hitting the jute-growers of India hard?

(f) Are there any proposals for improving the quality of jute grown in India, especially in the above two districts?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No. According to information available with Government, substantial quantities of Bimil jute were purchased by Mills in the past and the purchase of the current year's crop would also shortly commence.

(b) Yes. But it cannot be said that the market available was a large one.

(c), (d) and (f). The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given on the 3rd December 1952 by the Minister of Food and Agriculture to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 906 by Shri Rajagopala Rao.

(e) Government have no specific information on this point.

POWER FOR JUTE MILLS FROM DAMODAR VALLEY

*970. Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the possibility of supplying power to the jute mills round about Calcutta from the Damodar Valley Power Stations;

(b) if so, when the supply is likely to be started; and

(c) what would be the maximum quantity envisaged to be supplied during the period of the Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

The matter is under the consideration of the Government of West Bengal and the D. V. C.

(b) and (c). The information has been called for from the D.V.C. and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

AGREEMENT FOR SETTING UP OIL REFINERIES

346. Shri Namadas: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the agreements entered into with the Burmah Shell Company and Standard Vacuum Oil Company for the setting up of oil refineries in India?