

covers an area of approximately 100 sq. miles and contains over 2,000 million tons of lignite, comparable in quality to Grade I Coal produced in the Bengal/Bihar fields.

(b) The State Government have decided to undertake a Pilot Scheme, covering an area of 550 sq. ft., to examine whether the deposits could be worked or not. The question of using the sub-soil water for irrigation is also under investigation.

(c) The Government of India have decided to place at the disposal of the Madras Government, on a loan basis, certain heavy excavating machinery in connection with the working of the Pilot Scheme.

(d) Sanction for the release of the plant and machinery referred to in part (c) has been issued by the Central Government. Arrangements for the despatch of the machinery to the work spot are being made by the State Government.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE REPORT ON D. V. C.

*230. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in their fifth report for 1951-52, under para 46, reported that the present administrative and financial set-up of the Damodar Valley Corporation is most imperfect, illogical and open to criticism;

(b) whether the Estimates Committee in their said report made any recommendations as to the constitution for the Damodar and other river valley organisations; and

(c) what action the Government of India have taken in this connection?

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

(c) The Government of India have appointed a Committee of five Officials to report on certain matters connected with the D. V. C. Examination of the organisational set-up of the D.A.C. is one of the terms of reference of this Committee who have been asked to submit their report within two months.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN IN WEST BENGAL

*281. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since March 1952 the Government of India are not paying any money for the Pri-

mary Schools for displaced children in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what steps the Government of India have taken to ensure the continuity of these schools;

(c) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has not yet accepted the financial obligation for these schools and is paying money on Government of India's credit; and

(d) if so, when and how the financial obligation for the schools will be settled?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jaim): (a) No, it is not a fact.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The question of financial arrangement for the future years is under consideration of Government.

PRICES OF CLOTH

*282. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the reasons for decontrolling the prices of certain varieties of cloth and maintaining control on some other varieties?

(b) How does the present production of cloth compare with the pre-war production on a per capita basis?

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

(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Note dated the 30th September 1952, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 13(a).]

(b) 14 yds. against 15.3 yds. in 1938-1939.

FALL IN JUTE PRICES

*283. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how the recent drop of £40 a ton in Great Britain's quotation for raw jute has affected jute trade in India?

(b) What is the total amount of hard currency that India is expected to lose due to this fall?

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

(a) There has been no effect so far as we know because U. K. does not buy raw jute from this country.

(b) Does not arise.