

(b) The Commission's report is awaited.

(c) and (d). According to information furnished by the Government of Tripura, 16 tea gardens in the State have free primary schools and in other gardens children get educational facilities at schools situated near these gardens. Model Rules under the Plantation Labour Act have been framed by the Central Government and the State Governments have been requested to frame similar Rules as early as possible, when facilities contemplated under the Act can be given.

#### FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

**\*1504. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing system of flood warning by means of telephones and telegrams often breaks down during heavy floods and storms because of dislocation of transmission lines;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to install automatic flood warning sets and radio-operated rain gauges in the river basins of flood-affected areas;

(c) when such sets and gauges are likely to be installed; and

(d) the names of the areas where they will be installed?

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

(b) The proposal is under consideration by the various State Governments.

(c) It is proposed to obtain a few sets under the Technical Co-operation Mission Programme. These are likely to be received in about six or seven months' time.

(d) Generally in flood-affected river basins. The arrangements for installation have not yet been finalized.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the estimated cost of these automatic

flood warning sets and radio-operated rain gauges?

**Shri Hathi:** Each set will cost about \$3,000. We propose to have 20 sets; so the cost will be \$60,000.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** May I know whether it is a fact that North Assam gets cut off from the rest of India for three or four months in the year? If so, whether it is under contemplation of Government to replace the telephone and telegraph sets by radio-operated sets?

**Shri Hathi:** The idea is not to replace the existing telephone and telegraph sets by these automatic sets. But they will be in addition to these. These will also be installed in those basins.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will that area be considered for this purpose?

**Shri Hathi:** Yes.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** In reply to part (a), the hon. Deputy Minister said, 'yes'. May I know whether during the recent floods also the existing system broke down?

**Shri Hathi:** In some cases, it did break down.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether any special team has been sent to Kathmandu in this connection? If so, what is the main purpose of their visit?

**Shri Hathi:** No team has been sent. But a team is coming in January and then they will be installed.

#### CHINA CLAY

**\*1505. Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the China clay ore produced in the country is sufficient to meet the requirements of the country;

(b) the quantity of China clay imported into the country; and

(c) the reasons for importing it?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir, so far as ordinary China clay is concerned.

(b) 1951-52	127,469 cwts.
1952-53	.. 216,698 cwts.
1953-54	.. 193,474 cwts.

(c) Non-availability of suitable clays for certain specific purposes.

**Shri Deogam:** May I know whether the China clay of our country is inferior to foreign clay?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The China clay of our country is good enough so far as it goes. But there are certain varieties which are not available here. We have to import them.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I find from the memoirs of the Geological Survey of India that in the Kundara farms in Travancore-Cochin, one square mile will yield about 14 million tons of refined clay, best variety. May I know whether Government have any plan to utilise this China clay which is estimated to be about 30 to 40 square miles in Kundara and another 30 to 40 square miles in Varkala?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes. That variety of China clay is available only in limited quantities, the most important source being Kundara in Travancore-Cochin. As to what steps are being taken to exploit it, I should like to have notice.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** The hon. Minister stated just now that some quantities are being imported. There is a report also that the quality of China clay available in Travancore-Cochin will be suitable for any purpose for which China clay is used. I want to know whether Government contemplate taking any steps immediately so that this enormous supply of China clay could be utilised in India.

**Shri Karmarkar:** The supply is not enormous. Regarding the question proper, I ask for notice.

**Shri Kasliwal:** Are Government aware that in the Bundi and Sawal-Madhapur districts of Rajasthan some of the best China clay is available, and if so, what steps do they propose to take for its exploitation?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I shall find out if it is so, and then we shall consider, if it is possible, as to what use to be made of it.

**Shri Neswi:** May I know whether this clay is available in the Belgaum district in Bombay State?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is available in some small quantities in many parts. I am sure that my hon. friend knows that the clay which is available in Dharwar and Belgaum is useful for some purposes.

#### INDIAN SHIPPING

**\*1506. Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Vizag-built Scindia Type Motor Vessel of 7,000 dead-weight tons for coastal trade is assessed at Rs. 85 lakhs;

(b) whether the price of a similar vessel built in the U.K. is much lower;

(c) if so, by how much; and

(d) whether in fixing the freight rate for coastal trade, the price of Indian made vessels is taken into consideration?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) Scindia Company have ordered five 7,000 D.W.T. Maierform vessels on Hindustan Shipyard and the price for the first vessel has been fixed at Rs. 85 lakhs and for the subsequent four vessels at Rs. 84 lakhs each, subject to the usual escalator clause for adjustment due to variations in the prices of steel, timber and machinery.

(b) and (c). No. It is far from easy to determine the precise U. K. price