

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Production in Andhra, particularly in the Guntur District, is largely of flue cured virginia tobacco. Such accumulations of this tobacco as existed last year and early this year have more or less been cleared. It is understood that there are still some stocks in the country of (Natu) Tobacco and larger stocks of bidi tobacco. For these, there has never been any sizeable export demand; but efforts are being made to find new export markets.

(b) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to the delegation which visited Thailand, Japan, China, Hong Kong and Singapore. The delegation succeeded in creating an interest in China and some other countries in Indian tobacco and actually concluded a contract for sale of 2000 tons of virginia tobacco (app. 4 1/2 million. lbs.). As a result of the interest that was created, the Government of India were able to conclude a further contract for 9 million lbs. and the Chinese Government have also made purchases directly of approximately a similar quantity.

(c) Precise information is not available.

Sindri Fertilizers Factory

***1694. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the up-to-date position of the stock of fertilizers in the Sindri Fertilizers Factory?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): The closing stock of ammonium sulphate in the Sindri Fertilizers Factory on the 8th September, 1955 was 2730 tons.

Stores Purchases

***1695. Shri Eswara Reddy:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the value of stores purchased abroad by the Government of India during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) the value of stores purchased within the country for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the value of stores of foreign manufacture procured in India and the value of stores of Indian manufacture with regard to part (b) above; and

(d) the value of stores purchased by Government for the requirements of the Ministries of Defence, Railways, Irrigation and Power, Production, Com-

munications separately for each Ministry, for the last three years, year-wise?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). Four statements giving the required information in regard to purchases by the Central Purchase Organisation, are placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IX, annexure to 21.]

Coal Export

***1696. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coal during 1955 so far;

(b) the quantity of coal exported;

(c) the cost of coal exported during this year so far?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). Information for the period January to June 1955 is given below:—

Production	19.18 Million tons
Export	0.83 Million tons
Value of coal exported	Rs. 248 Lakhs.

East Pakistan Displaced Persons

***1697. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons from East Pakistan who have returned during the current year to their places of rehabilitation outside West Bengal which they had deserted; and

(b) the steps taken to remove their grievances and to prevent future desertions of this nature?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) 461.

(b) So far as the Government are concerned, necessary steps have been taken to remove the legitimate grievances of displaced persons. Any such grievance brought to the notice of Government will be looked into.

Sewing Needles

***1698. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that sewing needles are proposed to be manufactured in India shortly?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Yes, Sir.