

(b) and (c). Statements are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 29].

Dr. Rama Rao: In the statement, it is said that there is one project in Andhra, where small-scale and cottage industries are going to be developed. May I know what cottage industries are going to be developed in the Kakinada-Peddapuram project?

Shri S. N. Mishra: These are the things to be considered now, and a plan will be drawn up keeping in view the potentialities for development of the industries in that area.

Shri Dabhi: May I know what is the recurring and non-recurring expenditure on these projects?

Shri S. N. Mishra: So far as the pilot project is concerned, it is expected to last for nine months, and the estimated expenditure would be to the tune of Rs. 25,000. After that, it would be absorbed in the normal administration.

Heavy Electrical Equipment Plant

*746. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2139 on the 11th April, 1955, and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has since been taken for the setting up of a State-owned heavy electrical equipment factory in the country;

(b) if so, when it is proposed to be set up; and

(c) what is the estimated expenditure on its installation?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) It has been decided to set up a State owned factory for the manufacture of the heavy electrical equipment.

(b) It is too early to forecast a definite date.

(c) No firm estimate of expenditure can be given until Technical Consultants are appointed and Project Report is prepared by them in consultation with the Government.

Shri Ibrahim: May I know whether foreign experts will be required for this plant?

Shri Satish Chandra: A foreign firm of technical consultants will have to be appointed for assisting us in setting up the plant and training our personnel.

Shri Ibrahim: What is the name of the selected site where it will be installed?

Shri Satish Chandra: Selection of the site will not be possible till the project report has been received and fully considered by the Government.

Shri Punnoose: May I know what are the considerations that weigh with Government in choosing the site?

Shri Satish Chandra: They will also be indicated in the project report.

Cement

*749. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become self-sufficient in respect of cement and that export markets are being sought to be developed; and

(b) if so, the need for continuing the control on the price and the distribution of this commodity?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo): (a) In an expanding economy self-sufficiency in respect of any commodity is a purely relative term. Our target for cement production is put at ten million tons and we expect in the very near future to produce half that quantity. The demand for Cement is rising steadily. Export markets are being sought for the reason we can expand production of Cement considerably.

(b) As there is a large gap between supply and demand, price and distribution control become necessary.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know how much cement has been exported in the last three months?

Shri Kanungo: I could not give the figure for the last three months but I can say broadly that in 1954-55 we have exported 94,050 tons.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Government are aware that there is a dearth of cement in Bihar and even development projects are being held up for want of cement? If so, what is the reason for exporting cement when the needs of the country are not yet met?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Export of cement was generally allowed in the case of those cement factories which are far away from the areas where there is a shortage of cement and it is perfectly known to hon. Members of this House that the problem of transport from South India to Bihar is a very difficult one indeed at the present time.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what assistance has been given or what arrangements have been made for the production of cement in Saurashtra where there is so much of limestone?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is no question of assistance. Cement factories are coming up in Saurashtra. The problem again will be a problem of transport from Saurashtra to the consuming areas.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: In view of the fact that there is a shortage of cement—or at least we cannot get cement where we need—are the Government contemplating stopping export of cement and also taking away the control on cement?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No. As a matter of fact so far as exports are concerned they are just a trickle and we want to cultivate these markets. As my hon. colleague mentioned just now we expect to reach 5 million tons very soon and about 6 million tons by March next year. We cannot afford to lose our export market. So far as control is concerned so long as there is shortage there has to be control.

Plantation Enquiry Commission

*753. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 266 on the 25th February 1955 and state:

(a) whether the Plantation Enquiry Commission has since submitted their report to Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by Government thereon?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir. Not yet.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether any time-limit was fixed by the Government for submission of their report by the Commission?

Shri Karmarkar: It was October. But the Commission have written to us that they require still more time to complete their inquiry and submit their report. They have accordingly requested for a little extension till December. That question is under consideration.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Which are the States which the Commission have already visited?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the detailed list. They visited all the States where there are plantations—tea, coffee and the like.

Silk

*754. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Government have succeeded in reducing the cost of production of Indian silk and improving its quality;

(b) the amount placed at the disposal of the Central Silk Board since 1947, year by year, for the purpose; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Kashmir silk sarees are in great demand in Ceylon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) According to the Tariff Commission Report (1953), the cost of production of raw silk has been reduced by Rs. 2/7/10 per pound between 1949 and 1953. Its quality has also comparatively improved as a result of improvement in the quality of cocoons.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 30].

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many research stations have been started since 1944?

Shri R. G. Dubey: So far as my knowledge goes, two research centres, at Chennapatnam in Mysore and Malda in West Bengal, are working.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many new schemes have been taken up in 1954-55?

Shri R. G. Dubey: So far no new schemes have been taken up; but since additional grants have been made for the current year, the Mysore and Madras Governments, in particular, have been requested to submit certain technical schemes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that in 1953-54, Rs. 20 lakhs were set apart for these special schemes?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Yes, Sir.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know whether the silk industry in Mysore has been facing a crisis due to the heavy fluctuation of rates in the market of the cocoons and, if so, what steps do Government propose to take?

Shri R. G. Dubey: This is a vexed question. But, so far as my information goes, the Government of India have given additional grants to the Mysore Government to have experiments at Chennapatnam