

or any other laboratory for the extraction of titanium out of these sources as is being done by a well-known process in the United States of America and elsewhere? I also want to know whether if any scientific laboratory needs any plant for extraction of titanium, that will be encouraged by the Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If I am to answer these specific questions adequately, I should have full information on the subject. The value of titanium is very well known and that work is being done, but I cannot tell the hon. Member precisely what type of work is being done.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the provision of Rs. 2 crores in this year's budget to purchase a skeleton plant been utilised, and whether the plant has come and been set up?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know.

Mr. Speaker: They are general questions. No specific information is being asked. Next question.

Tea

*187. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of the fall in price of tea on Indian producers;

(b) the steps taken by Government to arrest the fall in prices; and

(c) whether Indian and Ceylonese merchants have taken any joint action in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):(a) The fall in tea prices resulted in lower profits for the Indian producers. It might be added that the market is now reasonably steady.

(b) No Special action on the part of Government was considered necessary. The export duty on tea was reduced in accordance with Government's declared policy.

(c) Government have no information.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether it is a fact that lowering of the prices of tea in England by the Joseph Lyons Group companies in May, 1955, was the manipulation to get cheaper qualities of Indian tea, or was due to some other reason, and if so, what are those reasons?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T.T. Krishnamachari): This fact the hon. Member perhaps knows: that the price of tea was very high and it was rising. I suppose the country which consumes tea had to take adequate precautions to bring down the price of tea.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What were the prices in May, 1955, and why did they come down? May I know whether it was a manipulation to get cheaper tea or it was due to some other causes?

Shri T.T. Krishnamachari: The man who pays knows where the shoe pinches, and therefore, he likes prices to come down and perhaps some action was taken by the concerned Government and by the concerned interests to bring down the price of tea.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is not a fact that it was after this pitching of the Joseph Lyons Group Companies that the tea interests of England combined to bring down the price to teach Ceylon a lesson, and if it is a fact which is known to the hon. Minister?

Shri Karmarkar: I think you should address that question to the Ceylon Parliament.

Shri Kamath: May I know whether it is a fact that most of the superior quality and high-class blends of tea are being exported, and they are not available for home consumption because of the export policy?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I should like to have notice.

Community Projects and N.E.S. Blocks

188. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the number of Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks to be opened during 1955-56, state-wise; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent on each kind of such blocks?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix I, annexure No. 45).

(b) Rs. 7 lakhs and 15 lakhs for each National Extension Service Block and Community Development Block, respectively.

श्री हेम राज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि साढ़े सात लाख और पंद्रह लाख रुपये में से, जो कि एक ब्लाक पर खर्च किया जायगा, सरकारी कर्मचारियों पर कितना खर्च होगा और वास्तविक काम पर कितना खर्च होगा ?

श्री एस० एन० मिश्र : इस के बारे में तफ़्तीलात कई बार इस हाउस में दी गई है ।