

stowing has also been recently increased. The Government are taking steps for a comprehensive review of the coal prices. The All India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes) is examining the wage rate and other concessions of colliery workers and the award of the tribunal is expected shortly. It will become necessary to review the entire position relating to coal prices in the light of the award of the tribunal.

The question of the further review of the stowing assistance now being given by the Coal Board is already under consideration by the Coal Board.

Ammonia Synthesis Plant for Rourkela

*852. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizer Production Committee has suggested that in future ammonia synthesis plant be associated with large steel works; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for associating an ammonia synthesis Plant at Rourkela?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fertilizer Production Committee has recommended that wherever possible ammonia synthesis plants should be associated with new steel plants.

(b) It is proposed to establish a fertilizer plant as an adjunct to the steel works at Rourkela.

Lord Home's Visit to India

*857. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. Minister for Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Home, came recently to India on the invitation of Government; and

(b) if so, the purpose of his visit?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). The Earl of Home was invited by the Government of India to visit India on his way back from Australia and New Zealand to the United Kingdom. The visit was a friendly one and advantage was taken of this to discuss a number of matters of common concern. He was in India from the 21st to the 25th October, 1955.

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Indians in Portuguese East Africa

*860. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main difficulties of Indians settled in Portuguese East Africa;

(b) what is their present approximate total number; and

(c) how far Government have been able to redress their grievances?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The main difficulties are in regard to the grant of entry permits for boys over five years of age, restrictions on changes in partnership, starting of new business and in making remittances to India. The Portuguese Government have also decided to impose a tax on all Indian merchants carrying on business in Portuguese East Africa.

(b) The number is approximately 12,600, including about 6,000 Indians from the territories of Goa, Daman, and Diu.

(c) In view of the present relations between Portugal and India, the Government of India have not been able to do anything in the matter.

Small Scale Industries

*863. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 697 on the 1st September, 1955 and state:

(a) what assistance will be given to small scale industries by the four regional institutes for small scale industries which have so far been started; and

(b) which industries are being dealt with by these institutes at present?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo): (a) These Institutes will act as Service Agencies to assist small industries to improve their technique of production and methods of business management, secure proper raw materials and promote patterns of development calculated to make small industries ancillary to large industries by bringing about co-ordination of production programme.

(b) All small scale industries other than handlooms.