

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As a matter of fact, this requires my going into details. I am afraid the hon. Member will have to put down a question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the new budget proposals of Mr. Butler in the House of Commons recently have in any way affected our balance of trade?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachar: I do not think that so far as our trade with the UK—our export to the UK—is concerned, the 'credit squeeze' of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of UK is likely to affect us very much. One of the principal commodities that we export to UK happens to be tea, and the demand is not quite so elastic as to respond to a 'credit squeeze'.

Shri Kasliwal: While addressing the Export Advisory Council recently, the hon. Minister had said that he proposed to have an export plan to be included in the next Five-Year Plan. My I know what steps has taken towards that?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have made a statement day before yesterday; I cannot bring out a chart today. It has got to go through a period of incubation.

Steel Plant

*298. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a fourth steel plant in India; and

(b) if so, where?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Government are not at the moment considering any plans to set up a fourth steel plant. But it has been decided to take steps to develop the site near Bokaro in Bihar with a view to establish a fourth steel plant when such a scheme eventuates.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I enquire whether Government have in mind any period within which this development work at Bokaro has to be undertaken?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No. I have fixed no targets yet.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Is it a fact that the Bihar Government has proceeded ahead and acquired about 30 or 34 square miles of land for the location of this fourth steel plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no precise information. But if Bihar Government had done so, that would be a part of the scheme of development of that area.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if some countries have offered to erect steel plants in India—the fourth or fifth? If so, which are the countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: These reports that appear in the newspapers from time to time are largely a matter of wishful thinking. I had no precise offer from any country.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if the difficulties which were prevailing at Bokaro at the time of selecting the site have been overcome, and also what efforts are being made to develop the site for the fourth steel plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Attempts at developing the site happen to be included amongst others attempts to overcome the difficulties which were found to exist when we were deciding on a site for the third steel plant, and when we develop this site, these difficulties such as the lack of road transport, lack of rail transport, bridge over the river, will all be overcome.

Salt

*299. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 2397 on the 29th September, 1955 and state:

(a) whether consideration of the representation made by the All India Salt Refiners' Association in connection with the proposed import of rock salt from Pakistan has since been concluded; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). Consideration has not been concluded. The points raised by the All India Salt Refiners' Association will, however, be borne in mind while arranging the distribution of rock salt to be imported from Pakistan.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that this salt refining industry is manned almost exclusively by displaced persons from Pakistan on explicit encouragement by the Government and on the distinct understanding that no foreign salt would be imported in future, so as to protect their interests?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is true that the refining industry is mainly being carried on by displaced persons. But I do not think that any undertaking of the kind referred to by the hon. Member was given by the Government.

Shri Kamath: In view of the fact that we have been exporting salt to Japan and Indonesia in the last two years, why was it considered necessary to import salt into India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: A trade agreement with Pakistan was finalised sometime ago in the interest of promoting trade between the two countries. We wanted to export certain commodities to Pakistan and they wanted to export some quantity of rock salt to our country. So it was a case of give and take.

Shri Kamath: In the process of helping Pakistan the Government not realise the fact that refugees from Pakistan would be badly hit?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not think the refugees will be very badly hit. In fact, in our proposals for the distribution of the rock salt to various States, the interests of the salt refining industry will also be kept in view and distribution will be so made as not to affect adversely the salt refining industry.

Engineering College for Orissa

*300. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1448 on the 5th September, 1955 in respect of the Engineering College in Orissa and state:

(a) whether any conclusion has been arrived at in the matter; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme has been provisionally included in the State's Second Five-Year Plan.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether at present any quota of reservation has been made for engineering students from Orissa in engineering institutes in other States? If so, to what extent?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I understand that so far as the existing arrangement is concerned, there are such provisions, but it is exactly to make up this shortage that this engineering college is sought to be established.

Shri Sanganna: How many Part 'A' States have got engineering colleges so far in India?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I require notice.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: What allotment has been made towards this engineering college in Orissa from Central funds?

Shri S. N. Mishra: That would be considered by the University Grants Commission.

Structural

*301. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government: have decided to reimpose control on structural steel products;

(b) if so the items on which control will be imposed; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to heavy structurals. If so, control was reimposed on 15-11-1955.

(b) A copy of the notification issued is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix II, Annexure No. 26].

(c) In view of the sharp increase in demand for these products and the limited availability, Government considered it necessary to reimpose control.

Shri Gidwani: May I know what is the production of structural steel in India and what is the probable need during the next two years?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The maximum production capacity with the existing producers is roughly in the region of about 24,000 tons per month. I cannot say precisely what the estimated demand will be. So far we carry an outstanding of 176,000 tons in respect of the demand that we have, and much of it has to be supplied from imports.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether China and Russia have offered to supply steel? If so, what is the quantity so far accepted, and do the prices compare favourably with the existing prices?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is no question of an offer to supply steel. India now needs steel and we are trying to tap every available market. And I might assure the hon. Member that nobody will be willing to sell steel at below the world market price, nor are we likely to buy at a price above the world market price.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bangalore Broadcasting Station

*372. **Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to broadcast regional