

this. Now, he says the figures are there. I would have thought that he would remember the question of the 25th and come prepared with this information and give that to us. I have to wait for another separate question to be put

Mr. Speaker: This question does not merely refer to loans or assistance given by the Government. The question is about the progress so far made in the modernisation of the textile industry, whether it be from the money drawn from the Government or from its own earnings. The hon. Member says that some answer was given earlier and from the answer that is now given it seems that the figures are ready. But the hon. Minister has not brought the figures here.

Shri Kanungo. The question is about the progress and modernisation and the statement gives that. But this question is: how much the individual companies or the establishments have invested from their own resources. This data has got to be collected.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Modernisation is, apart from loans from the Corporation, from the resources of the industry itself.

Mr. Speaker: Progress means installation of power-looms, etc. Incidentally he is giving only the figures that he has brought. If the hon. Member wants more information, he might put a question. (*Interruptions*)

Shri Jaipal Singh: That is my point. He is delaying the information.

Shri Bimal Ghose: How the progress of modernization

Mr. Speaker: Progress does not mean all the resources.

Shri Bimal Ghose: The information given is not complete.

Mr. Speaker: I take a different view. I think progress made in regard to modernization does not mean the money that is provided for it, but the number of looms that have been put up, the effect of the looms and so

on. If hon. Members want to know how this money has been provided, whether they have spent a portion or not, etc., it is not that the hon. Minister avoids any reply. Only, it does not arise out of this question straight-away.

Rubber Production

*525. **Shri Osman Ali Khan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of rubber produced in the country annually,

(b) how much rubber was imported during 1958, and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to make the country self-sufficient in rubber?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) 24,328 tons of raw rubber was produced in 1958

(b) 11,878 tons of raw rubber and 3,523 tons of Synthetic rubber

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix II, annexure No 3]

Shri Osman Ali Khan: May I know whether the average yield per acre in our country is one-third of the yield in other countries because of the soil and climatic conditions and, if that is so, whether the Government propose to develop the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' yield, where the climatic conditions and the soil compare very well with those of the best rubber-producing countries in the world?

Shri Kanungo: There is a separate question about Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The whole problem today is this: Government's efforts are to replace the existing plantation by high-yielding varieties; apart from the soil and climatic condition the planting material is also important. Therefore, the programme of replanting with better quality seeds of the plant is being undertaken and is progressing.

As far as Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned, the preliminary reports are very favourable. It has got to be tried out and seen whether the expectations will come true or not.

Shri Osman Ali Khan: May I know whether the Government are considering the setting up of a second synthetic rubber plant at Bombay in addition to the one already proposed in Uttar Pradesh, with petroleum as base

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The first synthetic rubber plant is proposed to be established at Bareilly and is based on power alcohol. The capacity will be between 20,000 and 30,000 tons a year. This is more than going to make the country self-sufficient. For the moment, the question of a second plant anywhere does not arise.

Shri Punnoose: The statement says that there are two proposals for the increase of production of rubber. One is replanting in an area of 75,000 acres, and the other is a project of Rs. 15 crores for synthetic rubber. May I know whether there is any proposal for new planting of natural rubber and what has happened to the proposal sent by the Rubber Board for new planting?

Shri Kanungo: Incentive for new plantation is under consideration, but the programme now is to replace the existing plantations with high-yielding varieties.

Shri Punnoose: It is stated that 6,500 acres have been replanted in the years 1957 and 1958. May I know what was the target? Is it a fact that the target has not been fulfilled and that the achievement is far below the target?

Shri Kanungo: The target is 70,000 acres. It is just natural that in the earlier years the progress will be slow and it will gather momentum later on.

Shri Tangamani: May I know when this target of 70,000 acres for replant-

ing for the production of high-yielding rubber will be completed? Will it be at the rate at which we are now going namely, 7,000 acres a year?

Shri Kanungo: The programme is for ten years. As I have said just now, the momentum will be gathered and then the progress will be quicker.

Shri Hem Barua: The statement says that the Government is negotiating with foreign firms for the establishment of a synthetic rubber plant. May I know what are those foreign firms?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have made reference to this several times in the House. The Firestone, Good Year, Dunlops and Dayton and other firms have taken interest in it. There is one plant to be established at Bareilly, and we expect some technical reports from them.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know at what stage does the negotiation stand now?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The project report is expected within a month or perhaps two at the most.

Shri Dasappa: May I know which are the tracts selected for planting this better variety of rubber?

Shri Kanungo: In the existing plantations all over India and mostly in Kerala, Madras and Mysore.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the Rubber Board has recommended to the Government to increase the subsidy from Rs. 400 per acre?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir.

Dr. M. S. Aney: May I know whether the manufacture of synthetic rubber is affecting the consumption of Indian rubber in any way?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. There is such a tremendous shortage that we have got to import synthetic rubber for many years to come and also manufacture it.

Shri Warrier: May I know what is the method adopted for replanting with high-grade rubber?

Shri Kanungo: There are approved nurseries which supply the high-grade planting material and they are inspected and approved by the Rubber Board. As far as small holders are concerned, the Rubber Board has got an extension wing which helps the planters for getting the right material and gives them advice on the planting process and all that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon Minister stated that the proposal has been received from the Rubber Board regarding financial assistance for new planters. May I know whether it is not a fact that the proposal was sent by the Board about a year ago and why the Government has not been able to take a decision on it so far?

Shri Kanungo: We are watching the progress of this scheme which is more important from the point of view of replenishing the supply by the Rubber Board than new plantations.

Exports of Oil Cakes

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*338. { Shri V. P. Nayar.
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of oil cakes released for export in the current licensing period—October, 1958 to March, 1959,

(b) the total foreign exchange earnings on this account,

(c) the steps taken, if any, to step up the exports of oil cakes,

(d) whether it is a fact that the export of oil cakes of expeller variety is forbidden and only oil cakes from solvent extraction are exported, and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) About 140,000 tons, in addition to certain varieties which are allowed to be exported freely

(b) Rs. 16 crores during October—November, 1958. Figures for later

months are not yet available.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No 4]

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that under the promotion scheme for exports of oil cakes the DCM has been licensed for importing machinery to handle 100 tons of oil cakes everyday?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): No such licence has been given under the export promotion scheme.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am only asking whether it is a fact that because there were certain restrictions on exporting oil cakes other than those made by solvent extraction process, under the promotion of exports any special licence has been given to the DCM to have a separate plant using the solvent extraction process?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no special scheme as such and no special licence under the export promotion scheme has been given to anybody. What we are trying to do is to encourage the setting up of the solvent extraction plant all over the country so that the oil which is very valuable and is going into the cake could be extracted out by this method.

Shri Jadhav: While exporting oil cakes, may I know whether the local needs of the people are taken into consideration, because there is a great demand for oil cake in India itself?

Shri Kanungo: That is exactly why it is put on a quota basis.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government have any idea about the proportion or the percentage of oil cake derived out of the solvent extraction process as against the normal process, in the past exports?