

(b) The Government of India are not themselves carrying out any experiments in regard to the development of cottage and small-scale industries. They are, however, conscious of the importance of this aspect of the problem and have given special priority to State Schemes which pertain to Research and experimentation for giving financial assistance.

(c) The All-India Handicrafts Board have recently selected Pottery and Earthenware and Matting for concentrated development for this year. Other cottage and small-scale industries are also, however, being encouraged through grants to State Governments and private organizations for the purpose.

COAL MINES STOWING BOARD

301. Shri N. P. Slaba: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to

state whether the Coal Mines Stowing Board has been constituted or not?

(b) If so, who are the present members and what are their qualifications?

(c) Are the accounts of the Coal Mines Stowing Fund audited?

(d) Do Government propose to lay on the Table of the House the last audit report?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Apparently the Member is referring to the Coal Board as the Coal Mines Stowing Board ceased to function with the passing of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952. The Coal Board was constituted with effect from the 8th January, 1952.

(b) The names of the present members and their qualifications are:—

Names	Qualifications
<i>Chairman</i>	
(1) Shri R. K. Ramadhyani, I.C.S. Coal Commissioner.	
<i>Members</i>	
(2) Shri N. Barraclough, Chief Inspector of Mines with the Government of India.	B.Sc. (Mining) & First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.
(3) Shri L.S. Corbett, Chief Mining Engineer (Railway Board) Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production)	B.Sc. (Mining) & First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.
(4) Shri A.B. Guha, Superintendent of Collieries.	B.Sc. (Mining) & First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.
(5) Shri M.L. Shome, Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution).	First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.

(c) The accounts of the Old Coal Mines Stowing Board used to be audited by the Auditors appointed by the Board with the approval of the Central Government. Under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952, the accounts of the Coal Board will be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(d) A copy of the audit report of the Old Coal Mines Stowing Board, for 1950-51 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 16]

HOUSES FOR MINE WORKERS IN RAJASTHAN

302. Shri Balwant Slaba Mehta: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the housing problem of workers in the mining industry in Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Government have under contemplation any scheme for construction of houses in that State either directly or in collaboration with mine owners?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) Government have not made any detailed study recently of the housing conditions of the labour employed in all the mines of Rajasthan generally. An inspection of the coal mines in that region, however, was made from this angle in 1950. There is certainly an appreciable shortage of housing.

(b) There is a scheme financed by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund for the grant of subsidies to colliery owners who construct houses for their labour in accordance with the plans and specifications prescribed by the Fund. There is, however, no such scheme in regard to mines other than the Coal Mines.

SCRAP IRON (EXPORT)

303. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how much scrap iron was exported from India during each of the last three years;

(b) to which countries it is exported and what is the value of these exports;

(c) whether any amount by way of customs duty accrues to the Government of India on these exports;

(d) whether the Government of India freely encourage the export of scrap iron; and

(e) whether Government contemplate taking any steps for the internal utilisation of scrap iron?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 17]

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Only such scrap as is not required in the country is allowed to be exported.

(e) The maximum that can be used in the existing furnaces is already utilized. Government are also freely permitting the installation of new electric furnaces.

CONSUMPTION OF TEXTILES

304. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita consumption of textiles in India during each of the years 1938, 1941, 1944, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951; and

(b) the reasons for the decrease in the per capita consumption of textiles, if any?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) It is not possible to state what the per capita consumption of cotton cloth in India has been from year to year. However, a statement showing the per capita availability is placed on the

Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 18.]

(b) Per capita consumption depends on various factors including the availability of cloth and the purchasing power of the consumer. The present per capita availability is estimated to be 14 yards, but there are indications that the consumption is not equal to availability.

FIRMS ASSEMBLING CARS

305. **Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the firms assembling cars and trucks in India;

(b) the dates when these firms were given licences and when they came into being;

(c) the capacity of each plant and the actual output;

(d) the criteria for giving licences to firms importing parts;

(e) whether there is any cess or duty on the parts manufactured in India; and

(f) whether the import duty on parts imported was reduced during the past four years, and if so, when and to what extent?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 19.]

(d) Firms which have been approved by Government as automobile assemblers/manufacturers are eligible for import licences for parts. Those who are making satisfactory progress with the manufacturing programme approved by Government, are given weightage in the grant of import licences.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 19.]

ALUMINIUM

306. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the value of Aluminium annually imported into India during the last five years?

(b) Is it a fact that there are deposits of Bauxite in Salem?

(c) If so, have Government any scheme for the utilisation of these ores for the manufacture of Aluminium?