

(c) Information is not available.

(d) No, Sir.

TUBE-WELL BORING MACHINE

547. **Shri Chinaria:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a Refugee Firm of Ludhiana has invented a tube-well boring machine?

(b) Are Government doing anything to encourage such local enterprise?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A firm in Ludhiana makes such machines but it is not known whether it is refugee concern.

(b) It is the general policy of Government to help such enterprise to the extent possible.

JUTE-GROWERS OF BIHAR

548. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the measures taken in pursuance of the assurance given in the House on the 17th of June, 1952 to improve the plight of the jute-growers of Bihar?

(b) Is there any proposal to erect some jute mills in Bihar?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The hon. Member is apparently referring to my remarks on the 17th June 1952 about improving the existing facilities for the transport of Bihar raw jute. If so, steps are being taken to complete the construction of the Madhepura-Murliganj line by 1953-54. This line will supplement the existing transport facilities provided by the Parsarma Supaul Railway.

(b) There are two jute mills in Bihar already. No application for the erection of any new mills in that State has so far been received.

मिट्टी का तेल (अभाव)

५४९. श्री बाल्मोकि: क्या निर्माण, गृह-व्यवस्था तथा रसद मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि ;

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में मिट्टी के तेल का अभाव है ;

(ख) यदि सच है, तो तेल के नये कप खोजने के लिये क्या पग उठाये जा रहे हैं; तथा

(ग) इस काम में लगे वैज्ञानिकों की संख्या ?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) There is no scarcity though our requirements are met mainly by imports.

(b) Extensive surveys and detailed investigations are being carried out in different parts of the country, to find out new oil wells.

(c) One Petroleum Geologist with 4 to 6 other officers.

U.S. AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO BHAKRA DAM

550. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the U.S. Ambassador in India visited the site of the construction of the Bhakra Dam?

(b) What was the purpose of his visit?

(c) Who accompanied him on behalf of the Government of India?

(d) Whom did he meet at the site of construction?

(e) What was the nature of the discussions he had with those whom he met?

(f) What is the outcome of his visit?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) His Excellency the Ambassador of the U.S.A. visited the site in order to see this interesting work in progress.

(c) Shri A. N. Khosla, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

(d) Senior Indian Officers and American Specialist, working on the Project.

(e) There were no particular discussions.

(f) Does not arise.

SHORT SUPPLY OF WAGONS FOR COAL TRANSPORT

551. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantities of coal are lying at the pit-heads of various coal fields in West Bengal and Bihar on account of short supply of wagons to transport them to consumers;