

(b) the average number of wagons made available per day since 1st October, 1952;

(c) the average number of wagons required every day during the same period; and

(d) how soon Government expect to meet this wagon supply problem?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) October, 1952 ... 3,390

November (upto 28th) ... 3,360

(c) 3,500.

(d) Commencing from the 1951-52 programme, new wagons are being ordered at an average rate of 9,500 wagons a year, which after allowing for replacement of over-aged wagons will allow for an increase in the wagon holding of about 3,000 wagons (both broad and metre gauges) each year. This increase will have to be suitably shared by all traffic. As far as can be foreseen, there should be a definite improvement in the wagon supply for coal from 1955 onwards.

GINNING PERCENTAGE OF COTTON

552. Dr. Rama Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether a device has been invented for the accurate determination of the ginning percentage of cotton?

(b) Who was responsible for inventing it?

(c) What are the detailed workings of this device?

(d) What is its importance to the industry and what steps are being taken for its application to the Industry?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) The Technological Laboratory of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

(c) I am afraid the working details of the invention cannot be disclosed at present in view of the fact that the patent application has not yet been accepted by the Patent Office.

(d) As regards the first part, the invention is likely to be useful to cotton breeding stations and cotton ginning factories. The second part of the question does not arise because the invention has not yet been patented.

LOAN TO SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

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

(a) whether Government have spent any sum towards the granting of loan to the small scale and middle industries since 1947;

(b) if so, the total amount year by year; and

(c) the names of the industries to which such grant was made?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 1,50,000 during 1950-51 and Rs. 92,000 during 1951-52. No such loan was granted prior to 1950-51.

(c) Handloom weaving, Tailoring, Woollen Industry, Wooden Slate-making, manufacture of various articles such as walking stick, pen-holders and knives.

EXPORT OF TEA

554. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange earned in 1951 by sale of tea?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Rs. 94.38 crores.

WORK-CHARGED STAFF OF AVIATION ELECTRICAL SUB-DIVISION I, DUM-DUM

555. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that refixation of pay as per Central Pay Commission Award has not yet been implemented for Work-charged staff of Aviation Electrical Sub-Division I, Dum Dum; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No. The pay of the work-charged staff of Aviation, Electrical Sub-Division No. 1, was duly refixed as far back as in April, 1948, in the revised scales of pay prescribed in implementation of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

FLOOD DAMAGE IN NORTH BENGAL

556. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1949 the territory of North Bengal (Districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri