

(c) Are Government aware that such abnormal increases have their repercussions on owners of private houses and are contrary to the provisions of Rent Control Act?

(d) Is it a fact that Officers who have not been provided with accommodation to which they are entitled are required to pay almost the same rates of rent as are paid by officers of equal status occupying higher and better types of accommodation?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The hon. Member has obviously in mind the revision of rents based on their pooling and not the usual quinquennial revision necessitated by additions and alterations to structures which add materially to their capital cost.

Accommodation allottable to the same category of Government servants but constructed at different times carry different rents, as they are based upon the cost involved. With the considerable addition that has taken place by way of new construction of residences, this disparity in rent for the same category of accommodation became very pronounced. It was, therefore, considered equitable to pool together the rents of all the buildings and average them out with due regard to the actual usable living space available in the different quarters. Such an attempt was made in February 1950, but it was not fully implemented as it was felt that the methods adopted were susceptible of improvement. With a view, however, to reducing the loss to Government where it was clear that appreciably higher rents would reasonably be charged and at the same time securing that the necessary relief was made available to those whose rents then were proportionately high, it was decided that pending further consideration, a ten per cent. increase should be made on the rents of those houses in where rents would have gone up, and in those cases where rents would have gone down, the rents as provisionally revised and reduced then should be levied. In either case the normal application of the ten per cent. ceiling in relation to the pay of the occupant was of course enforced and a further review was taken in hand. As a result of the further review, revised rents have been announced to be effective from 1st November 1952. These revised rents have secured a uniform basis of assessment, in relation to the effective accommodation available in the residences.

(b) While for certain types of quarters the rents have increased the magnitude of the increase is not any-

thing of the order mentioned by the Honourable Member. It should not of course be overlooked that whatever be the rents, the 10 per cent. ceiling continues to apply.

(c) In view of the basis of the revision explained, it would be appreciated that there cannot be any material repercussions on owners of private houses; nor could it be held to be contrary to the provisions of the Rent Control Act.

(d) This may be so in some cases, but not as a general rule.

WOOL AND PASHMINA

467. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of different kinds of wool and pashmina produced in India in different States in the last five years viz., 1948 to 1952;

(b) the total number of mills in India State-wise;

(c) the total number of hand-loom engaged in woollen and pashmina industry respectively;

(d) the requirements of the woollen mills and those of the handloom industries;

(e) whether any quantities of wool or pashmina are exported outside India to foreign countries and if so, what quantity and of what value of each one of them is annually exported and to what countries; and

(f) whether any wool is imported from outside countries and if so, from which countries, in what quantity and of what value?

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

(a) Estimates of production are available for raw wool as a whole and are not separately available for different kinds and pashmina. A statement of production per year on the basis of the 1945 census of livestock is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

(c) The information is not available.

(d) It is estimated that the requirements of the woollen mills and the handloom industry (including carpet and drugget industries) are about 10 million lbs. and 20 million lbs. per year respectively.

(e) Yes. A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

(f) Yes. A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

COWS, BULLS AND BUFFALOES (IMPORT)

468. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cows, bulls and buffaloes which were imported into India during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the countries from which such imports were made; and

(c) the total value of such imports during the said period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). Separate figures relating to import of cows, bulls and buffaloes are not maintained.

SCHOOL SLATES

469. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of school slates imported into India during 1938-39, 1939-40, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(b) the quantity and value of school slates produced in India, consumed in India and exported during the same period; and

(c) whether India is self-sufficient in the supply of school slates?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Import and export figures for slates as such are not recorded separately in Trade Accounts.

(b) Consumption and production figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

(c) From the results of an Enquiry conducted by the Tariff Board in 1948-49, it is observed that India is self-sufficient to meet the demands for school slates.

DIAMOND FIELDS

470. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted as to the diamond fields available in India and the variety obtained in India;

(b) the total production and export during 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(c) the total imports during 1950-51 and 1951-52; and

(d) the steps taken to step up production of diamonds in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Field investigations in certain areas in Vindhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have been carried out. The varieties of diamonds obtained in the Panna District of Vindhya Pradesh are brilliant white or blue white.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 34.]

ELECTROLYTIC COPPER

471. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual imports of Electrolytic copper and its money value;

(b) the total annual output of fire-refined copper in India and the places where it is manufactured; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken to manufacture electrolytic copper in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The information is not available in regard to electrolytic copper as an exclusive item. The position regarding imports of all grades of copper is as follows:—

	Quantity	Value
	tons.	Rs.
1950	34,085	7,51,93,816
1951	6,779	2,05,48,964
1952 (up to Aug.)	7,659	2,29,53,662

(b) Fire-refined copper produced in India:—

1950	6,614 tons.
1951	7,083 "
1952 (upto Oct.)	5,063 "

The fire-refined copper is produced at Ghatsila (Bihar).

(c) A scheme for installation of a Silver Refinery at Alipore, Calcutta has been approved by Government which, when started, will produce Electrolytic Copper as a by-product. The initial and ultimate target of production will be 3,600 and 10,000 tons per annum, respectively.