

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). Statements giving the requisite information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 40].

(d) The annual expenditure on the hiring of telephone circuit between Trivandrum and Kozhikode for relaying programmes between the two Stations is approximately Rs. 32,000/-. It is however, not possible to calculate separately the expenditure incurred in relaying programmes from Trivandrum to Kozhikode and from Kozhikode to Trivandrum, without expending a great deal of labour which will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

PRICE OF COCOANUT AND ITS PRODUCTS

40. Shri C. R. Iyyani: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what step has been taken to stop the downward trend in the price of Coconut and Coconut oil, coir and coir products;

(b) what is the number of people employed in these industries;

(c) how many factories or institutions for these industries have closed or slowed down their work; and

(d) what is the number of persons who have been thrown out of employment as a result of such closing down or slowing down of work?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No special step has been taken by Government as the fall in the prices of these commodities is a part of the general fall in prices and not brought about by any special causes. But Government have been informed that recently cocoanut oil prices have registered a sharp upward rise.

(b) It is estimated that about 4000 persons are employed in the mills crushing copra with the aid of power. 6,000,000 persons are estimated to be engaged in the coir industry.

(c) Coconut oil—About 10 factories in Travancore-Cochin. Information in case of Madras State is not available and is being collected.

Coir Factories—108.

(d) Information with regard to cocoanut oil factories is not available.

COIR GOODS (EXPORT)

41. Shri N. Sreekanth Nair: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the price of coir goods, including yarn and fibre exported from Cochin harbour during the first half of 1951-52; and

(b) the price of coir goods exported from Cochin harbour during the first half of 1952-53?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 41].

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME

42. Shri Velayudhan: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under the Industrial Housing Scheme by each State;

(b) the sum allotted by the Centre for this purpose recently; and

(c) the number of houses constructed so far Statewise?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). A statement containing the required information in respect of the years 1950-51 and 1951-52, is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No. 42]. As for the current year, as the Honourable Member may be aware, a new Subsidised Housing Scheme has been recently published after consultations with the State Governments and representatives of employers and workers. Applications received for aid under the scheme are being examined. It is hoped that construction of houses under this new scheme would start before the end of this year.

JUTE GOODS (EXPORT)

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

(a) the quantity of jute goods exported in the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) their respective price every year;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned every year;

(d) the customs duty realised every year; and

(e) this year's expected export in quantity and price and customs duty?