

1950, 1951 and the 7 months January to July 1952 were 1184, 1021 and 524 thousand cwts. respectively. Figures for the months of August, September and October of this year are not readily available.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House later.

(c) The prices of betel-nut, except in the case of Palghat variety at Bangalore, have after a temporary fall in the months of February and March 1952, recovered appreciably in recent months. The price of Palghat variety at Bangalore has remained, on the whole, erratic during the recent months with a general tendency towards a fall.

RAW RUBBER

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

(a) the annual production of raw rubber in India since 1946;

(b) the total annual exports since 1946 of raw rubber and the countries to which exports were made;

(c) the price at which exports have taken place since 1946; and

(d) whether the prices of raw rubber have recently been increased and if so, by how much?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a)—

Year	Production	
	Tons	
1946	.	15,672
1947	.	15,449
1948	.	15,422
1949	.	15,587
1950	.	15,599
1951	.	17,148
1952	.	18,959
		(Estimated.)

(b) and (c)—

Year	Exports	Price per 100 lbs.	
		Tons	Rs.
1946-47	.	299.2	75.1
1947-48	.	Nil	...
1948-49	.	6	78.03
1949-50	.	59.3	80.8
1950-51	.	945.1	93.9
1951-52	.	149.3	282.3

Information regarding the countries to which the rubber was exported is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir. The price was increased from Rs. 128/- to Rs. 138/- per 100 lbs. of Group 1 rubber, f. o. b. Cochín, due to increase in the cost of production of rubber.

KULJIAN CORPORATION OF U. S. A.

103. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Kuljian Corporation of U.S.A., a firm of consultant electrical engineers, are now acting not only as consultants, but also as construction contractors and purchasing agents as well for the Bokaro Thermal Power Station under the Damodar Valley Corporation?

(b) What are the different sorts of contracts between the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Kuljian Corporation in respect of the Bokaro Thermal Power Station?

(c) Is it a fact that the project officer of the Kuljian Corporation has the final say about the bills for the purchase of materials for the construction of this Thermal Power Station and that the Electrical Engineers of the Damodar Valley Corporation have no voice over these?

(d) Is it a fact that the Engineers of the Damodar Valley Corporation are not allowed by the Kuljian Corporation to inspect the progress of construction of the Power Station nor are any facilities afforded to any Indian nationals to get themselves acquainted with the various stages of construction?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Damodar Valley Corporation entered into a contract with the Kuljian Corporation covering:

(i) Construction management of the Bokaro Thermal Power Station.

(ii) Purchase of part of the Bokaro Power Station equipment in the USA. This included such materials as valves, piping etc., which were not furnished by the Main Suppliers of equipment namely the International General Electric Co.

(iii) Initial operation of plant.

(b) There is only one contract between DVC and the Kuljian Corporation; it covers the three matters mentioned in reply to part (a).

(c) No, Sir. Purchases over Rs. 3000/- by the Project Manager of the Kuljian Corporation can be made only after approval by the Chief Electrical Engineer of the DVC or by their Resident Engineer at Bokaro. Bills for