

(c) the total number of workers employed in Tea Industry in the said years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Precise information about the number of tea estates wholly or jointly owned by Indians and foreigners is not available. A statement showing the number of tea estates in different States of India, as on the 31st March 1948 and 31st March 1952 is laid on the Table of the House. Information for the year 1952-53 has not yet been compiled.

(c) The number of workers employed in tea plantations in 1948, 1949 and 1950 were:

1948	—	968,993
1949	—	985,616
1950	—	1,033,057

Information in respect of the subsequent years is not available.

STATEMENT

State	Number of Tea Estates in each State	
	As on the 31st March 1948	As on the 31st March 1952
Assam	783	787
Bengal	296	296
Bihar	9	9
Uttar Pradesh	45	45
Punjab (Kangra)	892	927
Himachal Pradesh	174	189
Tripura	55	55
Nepal	1	1
Total North India	2,255	2,309
Madras & Coorg	2,670	2,794
Mysore	12	12
Travancore-Cochin	1,105	1,126
Total South India	3,787	3,932
Total All India	6,042*	6,241

*Excludes 110 Tea Estates in Sylhet and 24 Tea Estates in Chittagong now in Pakistan.

TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

426. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what commodities were exported to and imported from Pakistan during 1952; and

(b) the volume and value of each such commodity?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the answer given on the 17th June, 1952 to Unstarred Question No. 191 by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

(b) A statement giving the information required in respect of principal commodities is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 54.]

रेशमी क़रडा (निर्यात)

४२७. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) १९५२ में भारत से निर्यात किये गये रेशमी क़रडे का मूल्य;

(ख) भारतीय रेशमी क़रडे के खरीददार और संभावी खरीददार देश; तथा

(ग) विदेशों में इस की बिक्री बढ़ाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा उठाए जाने वाले पग ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Rs. 15,90,000/-

(b) Federation of Malaya, Ceylon, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, U.S.A., Kuwait, Bahrein Isles, Burma, Pakistan, etc.

(c) Indian silk cloth is included in the bilateral trade arrangements with foreign countries whenever possible. Indian silk products are being sent abroad for display at Trade Exhibitions and Fairs and our Legations and Missions have been instructed to promote the sale of Indian silk goods.

रेशमी सूत

४२८. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) १९५२ में भारत में आयात किये गये विदेशी रेशमी सूत की मात्रा तथा मूल्य;

(ख) रक्षा विभाग द्वारा पराशुट आदि बनाने में प्रयुक्त की गई मात्रा तथा जनसाधारण के उपयोग में आई हुई मात्रा;

(ग) भारत में रेशमी सूत की कुल वार्षिक खपत और भारत में पैदा की गई मात्रा; तथा

(घ) रेशमी सूत के विषय में भारत को आत्म निर्भर होने में कितना समय लगेगा?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is presumed that the question relates to raw silk. The answer has been framed accordingly.

(a)	Quantity	Value
	(lbs.)	(Rs.)
	3,69,254	85,79,000

(b) The total consumption of raw silk in India during 1952 is estimated at about 2½ millions lbs. It is not in public interest to disclose the information relating to the Defence Services.

(c) On present estimates the normal consumption requirement per year of raw silk in India is between 2½ million and 3 million lbs. The production of indigenous raw silk during 1953 is estimated at about 2½ million lbs.

(d) It is difficult to give any indication at present.

IMPORT OF CLOTH

429. Giani G. S. Musafir: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity and value of cotton, silk and other varieties of cloth imported into India during the last three years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 55.]

ISSUE PRICE OF CEREALS

430. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the issue price of each kind of cereals at ration shops in the statutory as well as non-statutory areas in each State on the 1st January, 1953;

(b) the issue price of each kind of cereals at fair price shops in each State on the 1st January 1953; and

(c) the market prices of each kind of cereals in each State on the 1st January 1953?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). A statement is laid in the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 56.]

POST OFFICES IN RAJASTHAN

431. Shri Bheekha Bhai: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to lay on the Table of the House statements containing—

(i) the number and names of Post Offices proposed to be opened during the year 1953-54 in Rajasthan;

(ii) the number and names of combined Posts and Telegraphs Offices in Rajasthan; and

(iii) the number and names of Extra Departmental Post Offices in Rajasthan?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (i) to (iii). The programme for giving post offices to places with population of 2000 and above has been completed as far as Rajasthan is concerned. The policy for further extension of postal facilities and telegraph facilities with due regard both to population and distances has yet to be applied. The Government are, therefore, not in a position at the present moment to furnish the information for 1953-54 asked for by the hon. Member.

PRIVATELY-OWNED RAILWAY LINES

433. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the name, and the year of purchase, of each privately-owned Railway line by Government;

(b) the amount paid in the case of each such Railway;

(c) the basis of computing the amount referred to in part (b) above;

(d) whether accounts have been closed for all the Railway lines purchased; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, how much is due, for which railway, and when outstanding payments will be made?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (e). The information asked for the last two parts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course. It is regretted that it is not easily practicable to compile the rest of the information as this will entail an examination of records since 1880.