

(c) Exports of pearls are recorded in official statistics under heading "Precious stones and pearls unset". The value of their exports in 1951-52 and 1952-53 was Rs. 22.7 lakhs and 32.2 lakhs respectively. Information regarding customs duty levied on imports of pearls is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

T. B. PATIENTS AMONG DISPLACED PERSONS

749. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special beds reserved for the displaced T.B. patients in various State hospitals (i) that are maintained by the State Governments and (ii) maintained by the Government of India;

(b) the expenditure on the above by State Governments and the Government of India;

(c) the estimated number of T.B. patients amongst the displaced persons;

(d) whether a persistent demand for reserving more beds for the displaced T.B. patients had been made to Government; and

(e) what Government are doing in this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) (i) None to our knowledge.

(ii) 661 during 1953-54.

(b) Rs. 12.50 lakhs during 1953-54 by the Government of India.

(c) Exact information not available, but the estimate at one time placed it at 80,000 out of whom 16,000 were advanced cases.

(d) Yes.

(e) Within the allotment available for the purpose, every endeavour is being made to deal with the problem as effectively as possible.

आतिथ्य निधि

७५०. डाक्टर युगल किशोर सिंह : क्या प्रधान-मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५२-५३ की आतिथ्य निधि का कितना भाग अब तक व्यय हो चुका है ?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Rs. 1,70,000.

BARTER DEAL WITH RUSSIA

751. Shri Buchhikotaiah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new negotiations on barter basis between Russia and India are going on to enter into agreement for necessary commodities other than wheat; and

(b) if so, the present position of the talks?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A general Trade Agreement is now under negotiation.

POWER ALCOHOL

752. Shri Talaidas: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total production of power alcohol in India during 1951-52, 1952-53 and the expected production in 1953-54?

(b) What is the installed capacity of power alcohol distilleries in India?

(c) Are the distilleries operating at maximum installed capacity?

(d) If not, what are the reasons?

(e) Are Government aware that the Five Year Plan has given importance to this industry with a view to saving foreign currency?

(f) if so, what steps Government have taken to see that the industry produces at the maximum installed capacity?

(g) On what basis is the price of Rs. 0-14-0 per gallon of power alcohol fixed for distilleries?