

STEEL

640. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of steel imported so far during the current year and the value thereof;

(b) the names of the countries from which it was imported;

(c) the quantity out of this allotted to the Private Sector; and

(d) the quantity given to the Central Government Departments and State Governments?

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

(a) to (d). A statement is attached. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 18.]

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

641. Shri Hem Raj: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have invited some foreign experts for the study and re-organisation of the village and small scale industries in India?

(b) If so, who are they and to which countries do they belong?

(c) What industries do they propose to study?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the names of the experts and the countries to which they belong is attached. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 19.]

(c) Initial consideration will be given by the Team to the following industries:

1. Blacksmithy and small agricultural implements.
2. Carpentry.
3. Footwear and leather goods.
4. Tanning.

5. Cycle parts.

6. Cutlery.

7. Locks.

8. Mathematical and drawing instruments.

9. Sports goods.

10. Brush manufacture.

11. Steel wire products.

12. Glassware.

Additions to or deletions from the list will be in order depending on the experience of the Team as they proceed with their investigations.

RIVER SURVEY IN ASSAM

642. Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of rivers to be surveyed for hydro-electric projects in Assam has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the names of the rivers on which such survey was to be undertaken?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

CAUSTIC SODA

643. Shri Ram Dass: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of caustic soda in the country;

(b) the total consumption of this commodity in India; and

(c) the total import from outside?

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

(a) The present rate of production is about 21,000 tons per annum.

(b) No precise figures of consumption are available.

(c) The total imports during 1952-53 were 25,552 tons and during 1953 (April to October) 22,500 tons.