

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). There are no restrictions on export of Tapioca Starch from Travancore-Cochin State. Figures of quantity and value of actual export from that State are not available.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether Government have received any complaint from the people of Travancore-Cochin State with regard to the export of tapioca starch from that State and the serious effects it is having on the food problem in that State?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, so far as I am aware.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is Government aware that, I myself have, sent a complaint?

Shri Karmarkar: I will look into the matter.

SEMINAR ON LOW COST HOUSING

***382. Shri Bhagwat Jha:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state which are the countries invited and who have accepted the invitation to participate in the Seminar on Low Cost Housing?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): Invitations for the Seminar have been issued by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration. A list is placed on the Table of the House giving names of the countries participants from which are likely to attend, [See Appendix II, annexure No. 46.]

श्री भगवत झा : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस प्रदर्शनी में कितने प्रतियोगियों ने भाग लेने की सूचना दी है और कितने प्रकार के नमूने पेश किये जायेंगे ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the hon. Member is confusing the Exhibition with the Seminar. The question relates to the Seminar. If he wants information on the Exhibition I can give that information.

SALT

***384. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has got enough markets abroad for its surplus salt; and

(b) the quantity of salt exported so far during 1953?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No. The only major importer of Indian salt is Japan.

(b) The quantity exported by sea so far during 1953 is about 62 lakh maunds.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: If India has not got enough markets for her salt, are Government trying to find out some more markets elsewhere?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The production of salt in India has gone up in the last two years. The Government of India are exploring through certain Embassies the availability of new markets for salt. The results, I am afraid, have not so far been encouraging. At the same time the Salt Manufacturers' Association and certain enterprising manufacturers also are trying abroad to find new markets for the salt manufactured by them. Anyhow, efforts are being made to increase exports.

NORTH-EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

***130. Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many post and telegraph offices have newly been opened during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 in North-East Frontier Agency?

(b) How many air-strips are under construction for landing of planes in the North-East Frontier Agency, for regular supply of commodities?

(c) Has the supply position of food-grains considerably improved during recent months?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):

(a) One branch post office, without telegraph facilities, was opened at Nizamghat in Mishmi Hills during 1951-52 but was closed after four months working due to floods and was re-opened at Meka in Mishmi Hills during 1952-53. Recently the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been requested to establish post and telegraph offices at 12 different places in the N.E.F. Agency. Two such post offices have already started functioning at Tezu and Kimin and orders have issued for immediate opening of 4 more post offices at Along, Pangin, Karko and Djilli.

(b) One air-strip is under construction at Tuting in Abor Hills and another at Dapo Rijo, in Subansiri area, has just been completed. Special improvements (P.B. Sheet surfacing) to air-strips at Along and Ziro, have also been sanctioned and will be carried out shortly. Proposals for the improvement and/or construction of air-strips at eight other places are under consideration.

(c) The supply position of food grains is improving. During recent months about 866 tons of food stuffs have been air-dropped at various places in the Agency.

Shri Amjad Ali: With regard to part (a) of the question may I know what was the number of post and telegraph offices existing before the year under review?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: The post offices at Tezu and Kimin have started functioning.

Shri Amjad Ali: Was there no post office before?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: No, Sir.

Shri Amjad Ali: With regard to part (b) of the question may I know what is the existing number of air-strips?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: I require notice.

Shri Amjad Ali: Notice is already there.

Mr. Speaker: The question is: how many air-strips are under construction for landing of planes, etc. What is the number?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We do not know exactly, Sir, except that even now several new air-strips are being constructed. They are rather small, temporary air-strips, not *pucca* things, air-strips on which a plane can land, but if too many land it is dug up. We are trying to get them all over the place. I could not give the exact number.

Shri Amjad Ali: Is it a fact that air-dropping of food supplies is done only to feed government officers there and not the population?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Air-strip has nothing to do with air-dropping of food. It is only where there is no air-strip that food is dropped. I do not understand.

Shri Amjad Ali: My question was whether food is dropped only for the benefit of government officers there and not for the population.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is exceedingly difficult to send food by air. That is, there are transport difficulties; we have not got enough planes, and only a small quantity can be carried. And it is carried to various depots that are there both for the population and the government officials who are there. We cannot feed a large area by dropping food from air.

Shri Amjad Ali: Has the food situation in that area after the earthquake improved to such an extent that no air-dropping of food is necessary for the civilian population there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Air-droppings cannot be done in a large way. There are no facilities, no aeroplanes to do it. We do it to the best of our ability. There is a constant tug-of-war, I may tell the hon. Member, between our officials, our Agency there and the Air Force which cannot do what we ask them to do.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is any effort made to ascertain the food requirements of these areas beyond what they can produce themselves and equitable quantities arranged to be sent from time to time? /

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. When the hon. Member talks about the area, the area is a large area with various degrees of administration there. An effort is made. Where there is no aircraft available, the effort is obviously difficult /

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The question was asked whether the foodgrains supplied were only for government officers or also for the local population. I want to find out if the needs of the population, apart from the government officers, are also considered when the despatch of foodgrains is decided upon by air. /

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course, Sir. The needs of the area are also considered and food is sent for that area. But so far as the droppings are concerned they are necessary limited, because the aircraft are limited. /

Mr. Speaker: I am calling Shri S. N. Das's question No. 350.

CENTRAL WATER AND POWER COMMISSION

*350. **Shri Radha Raman (on behalf of Shri S. N. Das):** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any changes are contemplated the constitution, set up, functions, powers and responsibilities of the Central Water and Power Commission as a result of the recommendations of Kasturbhai Lalbhai Committee and Public Accounts Committee;

(b) if so, what; and

(c) whether any rules and regulations have been framed for the proper functioning of this organisation? /

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Yes, Sir. /

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 47.] /

(c) Rules of procedure for the conduct of business at the meetings of the Central Water and Power Commission have been framed. A manual containing the rules and regulations for the proper functioning of the Organisation has been prepared and is at present under scrutiny by the Commission. /

Shri Radha Raman: How much time will be taken before this is completed. /

Shri Nanda: What is completed? /

Shri Radha Raman: The scrutiny which he mentioned. /

Shri Nanda: That is going ahead very briskly. /

Shri Muniswamy: I want to put Question No. 366. /

Mr. Speaker: I am calling the earlier question No. 353. /

JAPANESE CLOTH DEAL

*353. **Shri Radha Raman (on behalf of Shri S. N. Das):** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the statement laid on the Table of the House on the 11th August, 1953, in connection with the Fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the imports and sale of Japanese cloth and state: /

(a) whether the arbitration proceedings referred to therein with regard to settlement of outstanding recovery of Rs. 15 lakhs due to Government from the firm Messrs Banwarilal and Company relating to the transaction pertaining to the import and sale of Japanese cloth in 1946-47, have been finalised; and /

(b) if so, what is the result of the arbitration? /

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Arbitration proceedings /