

of licences issued for coconut oil can be used for the import of coconut oil. The balance one third can be used for the import of copra or coconut kernel. One third of the face value of the licences may be utilised for the import of palm oil in lieu of coconut oil.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 81.]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendation will be considered while formulating the import policy for July-December, 1954.

#### PILGRIMS TO MECCA

536. **Shri G. L. Chaudhary:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims who went to Mecca for 'Haj' in 1953; and

(b) the number of persons who died during the pilgrimage?

The Prime Minister (**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru**): (a) 9,083.

(b) 98.

#### EXPENDITURE IN ANDHRA UNDER THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

537. { **Shri Eswara Reddi:**  
**Shri C. R. Chowdary:**  
 Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent in Andhra area under the Five Year Plan on different heads upto the formation of this State;

(b) the financial assistance given under the Plan after the formation of this State; and

(c) how much of it has been utilised and how much allowed to lapse by the Andhra Government and under what heads?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (**Shri Hathi**): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 82.]

(b) A loan of Rs. 375 lakhs was sanctioned for the period October, 1953 to March, 1954 for development schemes in the State Plan.

(c) The information is not yet available.

#### SALT FACTORIES

538. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state how many salt factories are working on lands given by the Central Government?

(b) Do Government realise any land rent from the factory owners?

(c) How many of these factories are owned by Government and how many are run by Joint Stock Companies or by Co-operative Societies?

(d) How many factories are not paying any land rent to Government?

The Minister of Production (**Shri K. C. Reddy**): (a) to (d). The required details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

#### NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE BLOCKS IN MANIPUR

539. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Extension Service Blocks allotted for Manipur State in 1954-55;

(b) the villages or areas covered by the National Extension Service Blocks;

(c) the number of trained personnel employed in the Blocks; and

(d) the number of persons from Manipur now undergoing training for the National Extension Service Blocks?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (**Shri Hathi**): (a) No decision has so far been reached.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### PROHIBITION

540. **Shri Raghuramiah:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is considering the appointment of

a committee to study in detail the working of prohibition in the country; and

(b) if so, when the committee is likely to be appointed?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) and (b). The Planning Commission is arranging for a study of certain aspects of the programme for prohibition. At a later stage in the study, the appointment of a committee will be considered.

#### CEMENT QUOTA FOR BIHAR

**541. Shri G. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cement quota allotted to Bihar in 1953-54; and

(b) what is the total production of cement in Bihar?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) 121,200 tons.

(b) 848,473 tons.

#### THOUBAL COMMUNITY PROJECT

**542. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the area and population covered by the Thoubal Community Project;

(b) the progress of this Project during 1953-54;

(c) how is the working and progress of this Project as compared with 1952-53; and

(d) the difficulties experienced so far in this Project and the steps taken to remove them?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Area 200 sq. miles, population 1,02,118.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the progress made from quarter to quarter during the year 1953 is laid

on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 83.]

(d) In the initial stage, some difficulties were experienced mainly with regard to lack of trained personnel which have since been overcome.

#### INDO-PAKISTAN CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI

**543. Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered Indo-Pakistan conference was held recently in New Delhi to deal with the question of recovery of abducted women; and

(b) if so, what were the decisions arrived at?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Yes, it was held on 6th, 7th and 8th of May, 1954.

(b) A copy of the Communique, embodying the points on which agreement was reached, is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See Index No. S—176/54.]

#### केसर

५४४. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री २९ अप्रैल, १९५४ के पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २१३४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५३-५४ में केसर के आयात के लिये कितने लाइसेंस दिये गये ;

(ख) स्पेन से कितने मूल्य का केसर मंगाया गया ; और

(ग) भारत में खपत के लिये कितना केसर प्रति वर्ष काश्मीर से प्राप्त होता है ?