

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

(a) and (c). There has been no alarming fall in prices of coconut in India. During the year July 1953—June 1954, the wholesale price of coconut at Cochin declined only by 11 per cent. The fall in the prices of copra in the important world markets and in prices of major oil seeds in India has generally been much more than the fall in price of copra at Cochin. Besides, the current prices of copra stand considerably higher than those of the major oil seeds when related to the pre-war price level.

(b) The impact of fall in the general level of prices of all agricultural commodities is felt in the case of coconut also.

#### COMMUNITY PROJECT AREAS IN ORISSA

569. **Shri K. C. Jena:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage of land, district-wise, brought under the minor and major irrigation works in the Community Project Areas in the State of Orissa since the beginning of the work till the end of June, 1954;

(b) whether the crops grown in the lands brought under the said irrigation works have been affected by this year's drought;

(c) the amount spent for providing irrigation facilities to the cultivators of the Community Project Areas, in the Balasore District, Orissa, from the beginning of the scheme to the end of June, 1954;

(d) the number of tube-wells and pucca wells respectively that have been sunk in the project areas of Balasore District; and

(e) the number of new tanks excavated, and old tanks renovated in the Project Areas of Balasore District?

**The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra):** (a) to (e). Information has been called for from

the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House when available.

#### COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

570. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount given by the Centre to the Punjab Government for development of cottage industries, yearwise, from 1949-50 to date, and the amounts utilised each year?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** A statement is attached. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 23].

#### EUROPEAN MEDICAL OFFICERS IN TEA COMPANIES

571. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**  
**Shri V. P. Nayar:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of European medical officers in the service of Tea companies in India?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** According to the returns received by the Government from the Tea Companies in India, there were 16 European medical officers in their employ on 1-1-1954.

#### STANDARD VACUUM OIL REFINERY IN TROMBAY ISLAND

572. { **Sardar Hukam Singh:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the percentage of India's oil needs that are likely to be met by the Standard Vacuum Oil Refinery which went into operation on the 29th July, 1954?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** This refinery, when in full production, is likely to meet about 28 per cent of India's present requirements of petroleum products.