

SOAP FACTORIES

259. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major soap factories in the country;

(b) the places where they are located;

(c) the total production of soap from these factories; and

(d) the total consumption of soap in the country?

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

(a) Ten.

(b) Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Madras (U.P.) and Bangalore.

(c) About 74,000 tons a year.

(d) No precise information is available, but according to the assessment made by the Tariff Commission at the recent enquiry into the Caustic Soda industry, the consumption of soap in the country is estimated at about 120,000 tons per annum.

SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

260. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state what is the scope of minor irrigation schemes in the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): The matter is under consideration and no decision about the scope or magnitude of the Plan under this head has yet been taken.

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR JUTE

261. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Export Promotion Council for jute has been set up; and

(b) if so, whether it has taken any steps to promote the standardisation

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and export of jute and to improve its quality?

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

(a) I am afraid this part is ambiguous. If the reference is to raw jute, then the question of setting up an Export Promotion Council does not arise because we do not export this article. If, however, the hon. Member has in mind the case of jute manufactures, I may say that no such Council has been established.

(b) Does not arise.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME

262. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the amount paid to State Governments so far by the Government of India for the construction of tenements under the Industrial Housing Scheme as subsidies and loans?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): Out of a sum of Rs. 534.4 lakhs as loans and Rs. 548.8 lakhs as subsidies, sanctioned under the subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme upto 31st October 1954 to State Governments payments amounting to Rs. 326.9 lakhs by way of loan and Rs. 220.3 as subsidy have been made. Besides, a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs has so far been paid as loan to the Bihar Government for implementation of the Bihar State Industrial Housing Scheme.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

263. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of accord- ing recognition to the Government of the German Democratic Republic has been considered by the Government of India; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The Government of India's policy in this