

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
About Rs. 2 crores.

PEPPER

975. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the production and consumption of black pepper in India during the period 1953-54 and 1954-55; and

(b) the quantity and value thereof exported during the same period?

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

(a) Production during 1953-54 was estimated at 22,000 tons. Data for 1954-55 is not yet available. Precise information about consumption is not available. Consumption of black pepper in the country was, however, estimated by the Spices Enquiry Committee to be about 5,000 tons per year.

(b) 12,750 tons valued at Rs. 1287 lakhs were exported in 1953-54 and 12,390 tons valued at Rs. 643 lakhs in 1954-55 (April-February).

URANIUM DEPOSITS

**976. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Th. Lakshman Singh
Charak:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of awards given so far for discovering new deposits of Uranium; and

(b) what was the amount of the highest award?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). Nil.

GRANT TO PUNJAB

977. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that has been allocated to Punjab for Community Project Development and National Extension Blocks for the year 1954-55:

(b) the amount spent to-date on the various Projects Schemes; and

(c) the amount of voluntary contributions, if any, received either in kind or in cash?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Rs. 1;86 crores.

(b) Rs. 2.00 crores. } Upto 31st
(c) Rs. 1.85 crores. } March, 1955.

ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

**976. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari
Sinha:
Shri Niranjan Jena:**

Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work in the construction of the Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) whether it is a fact that the progress is much behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check further delay?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 65].

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

TYPEWRITERS

979. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of typewriters imported during 1954-55?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): About 7,400 complete typewriters were imported during the period April 1954 to February, 1955.

INDIANS IN CANADA

980. Shri Ibrahim: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians who have their permanent residence