

Tea Exports

357. **Shri Heda** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether the duty on the export of Tea has been raised; and

(b) the total quantity of tea exports in the last 3 months?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) (a) Under the present slab system of export duty on tea, the duty is fixed with reference to the price of tea. Since March 1955, export duty has been levied at the following rates:—

March	1955	As. 10/- per lb.
April & May	"	As. 8/- "
June & July	"	As. 4/- "
August & September	"	As. 6/- "
October, November and December.	"	As. 8/- "

(b) The total quantity of tea exported during July-September 1955 was 136.36 million lbs.

Agreement On Indus Waters

358. { **Sardar Hukam Singh**;
Shri D.C. Sharma;
Shri L. N. Mishra;
Shri Raghunath Singh;

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new *ad hoc* transitional agreement has been entered into between India and Pakistan for the irrigational use of the waters of the Indus system of rivers; and

(b) whether the International Bank has proposed any final and permanent settlement so far in respect of these waters?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) short term agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan for a *ad hoc* Transitional Arrangements for Rabi 1955-56 was signed on the 31st October 1955.

(b) No.

Indo-rumanian Trade Agreement

359. **Shri Amjad Ali**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rumania has evinced a desire to import (i) Coffee, (ii) Tea, (iii) mica, (iv) Shellac, (v) Black pepper, (vi) Timber, and (vii) various kinds of mineral ores from India in increased quantities;

(b) whether any agreement between India and Rumania has recently been signed; and

(c) if so, the terms thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Government have seen a newspaper report of the statements said to have been made by the trade representative of the Rumanian Peoples Republic at a press conference held in Delhi to the effect that shellac, mica, pepper coffee and tea from India could find a market in Rumania.

(b) and (c). A trade agreement between India and Rumania was signed on 23rd March 1954 and will be in force upto 31st December 1955. Copies of the agreement and the notes exchanged in connection therewith are available in Parliament Library.

Steel

360. **Sardar Hukam Singh**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Steel for internal consumption has increased during the current year; and

(b) if so, the main items of steel in regard to which this increase is particularly noticeable?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Structural, Sheets and Bars and Rods.

Steel Imports

361. **Sardar Hukam Singh**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of steel imported during the current year.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): 678,544 tons from

January upto 31st October, 1955.

Bhakra Dam

366. **Sardar Hukam Singh**: Will the Minister of Irrigation and power be pleased to state the quantity of steel that would be needed to complete that Bhakra Dam?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): 1,000,000 tons.