

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Delhi is the most important and an All India station of All India Radio and its programme expenditure is therefore higher than all other All India Radio Stations.

Engineering Goods

958. Shri Ibrahim: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the value of India's exports of engineering goods during the period from the 1st July to the 30th September, 1955?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Approximately 55 lakhs of rupees.

Rural Electrification

959. Shri Ibrahim: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the number of villages in India so far electrified during the last three years (State-wise)?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): A statement containing information available with the Government of India is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 25].

Major and Minor Irrigation Works

960. Shri Ibrahim: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the area of additional land brought under irrigation following the execution of various major and minor irrigation works during the first four years of the Plan (State-wise)?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Three statements giving the requisite information are laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 26].

Displaced Persons in Assam

961. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons rehabilitated in Assam so far; and

(b) the number of persons yet to be rehabilitated there?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). The State Government are undertaking a survey shortly.

Cottage Industries

962. Ch. Raghbir Singh: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given grants for the development of the Cottage Industries to various firms or persons in 1954-55.

(b) if so, which of them have received these grants; and

(c) what is the amount given to each.

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (c). Government has not given any grants to firms. Besides several institutions, a grant of Rs. 10,000/- was paid to Shri N. R. Das of Pan Bazar, Gauhati, who had designed *tassar* and *m'ga* reeling and Eri Silk Spinning machines, to enable him to carry on further experiments on spinning and reeling machines. Also, a grant of Rs. 1,000/- was paid to Shri Joe Curean of Travancore-Cochin State, who has invented a pocket charkha, to enable him to carry on further experiments on his invention.

Displaced Foodgrains Merchants in Bombay

963. Shri Gopala Rao: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Sindhi Evacuee Merchants' Association of Bombay regarding the difficulties and sufferings experienced by the displaced foodgrain merchants due to 'Quit Notice' served on them; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

D.V.C.

964. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the D.V.C. further to examine how the streams of lower rivers and its tributaries can be improved, has submitted reports; and

(b) if so, the observations made by the Committee about the Rupnarain river?