

Jute Mills

1052. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total unused capacity in the jute mills at present; and
- (b) what steps Government have taken to enable the jute mills to employ their unused capacity?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) About 7842 looms with an approximate capacity of 12,000 tons of jute goods a month representing 12½% of the looms in the jute mills are at present unused.

(b) The unused looms can be employed only by increasing exports of jute goods. A statement showing the measures taken by Government in this direction is laid on the Table. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 35]

Coffee Plantations

1053. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of the Coffee plantation owned by the Europeans and the Indians separately in South India at present; and
- (b) the total area under actual plantation?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) The estimated area under coffee owned by European and Indians in South India as in 1954-55 was:—

Europeans	..	7,919 acres.
Indians	..	2,44,555 acres.

(b) The total area under coffee in India in the year 1954-55 was 2,52,686 acres.]

Post Offices in Kangra, Punjab

1054. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any programme has been chalked out of to open Post Offices in all villages of Kangra district (Punjab) having a population of one thousand and above?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : All the villages having a population of one thousand or more in Kangra District are already provided with Post Offices.

Salt Production

1055. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government proposed to take for expanding production of salt in the Second Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether salt producers have submitted plans for more production of salt; and
- (c) if so, whether Government have approved their plans?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) In order to achieve the target of production of ten crores maunds of salt per annum by 1960-61, Government have decided to take the following steps:—

Private Salt Sources

- (1) Issue of more licences to private manufacturers.]
- (2) Tapping new sources in Bengal and Assam, where production is very low at present.

Government Salt Sources

- (1) Use of sub-terranean brine at Sambhar by digging additional pits and percolation canals.
 - (2) Construction of additional plans at Sambhar Lake.
 - (3) Sinking of shafts at Drang (Mandi).
 - (4) Expansion of the condensers and crystallisers at Maigal (Mandi) to utilise more brine.
 - (5) Construction of new chambers and tunnels at Guma (Mandi).
- (b) and (c). 54 applications for new licences received from private parties are at present being scrutinized.

India's Foreign Trade

1056. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy : Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state whether export of commodities has increased till the end of September this year in comparison with the corresponding period of the last year?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : Yes, Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix V, annexure No. 36].