

(b) the progress achieved so far under the scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) No; the Maharashtra Government have not so far asked for any loan assistance for the implementation of this Scheme. They, however, propose to set apart a sum of Rs. 66 lakhs from their own resources for construction of rental housing for persons in the middle-income group.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Purchases from Small Industries sector**

**640. Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the value of stores purchased in 1959-60 from the small industries sector with and without the assistance of the National Small Industries Corporation?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy):** Rs. 4.33 crores:

Rs. 2.65 crores with the assistance of the National Small Industries Corporation and Rs. 1.68 crores (including Rs. 1.01 crores of Khadi items) without its assistance.

#### **Office of Political Officer, Sikkim**

**641. Shri Madhusudan Rao:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2030 on the 12th April, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the investigations in regard to the allegations of malpractice against the office of Political Officer, Sikkim have since been completed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in this matter?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) to (c). The investigations have not yet been completed.

#### **Dry Battery Electric Cells**

**642. Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether wood flours are used in the country for the manufacture of dry battery electric cells;

(b) whether this process was developed by the Forest Research Institute; and

(c) whether all the manufacturers use wood flours in the manufacture of these cells?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) None of the dry battery manufacturers are using wood flours for the manufacture of dry battery electric cells.

(b) Some time ago the Forest Institute suggested the use of a mixture of the wood flours in dry electric cells.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Briquettes**

**643. Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) which firms in India produce charcoal briquettes by using cheap binders as developed in the Forest Research Institute;

(b) what is the use of these charcoal briquettes in this country; and

(c) what is the total requirement of the country?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Information is not available.

(b) Practically the same as that of charcoal.

(c) Information is not available.

#### **Manufacture of Sports Goods**

**644. Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in the manufacture of sports goods;