

Ash should be raised to 600 tons per month;

(b) whether it is a fact that since July, 1958 on an average only about 250 tons of Soda Ash have been supplied to this industry, and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating with a view to meeting the requirements of this industry"

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c) The Glass industrial Syndicate, Ferozabad had asked for the supply of 600 tons of Soda Ash per month, but the actual supply since July 1958 has, on the average, been 450 tons a month. Additional imports are being arranged to meet the unsatisfied demand of the Glass and Bangle Industry

Shortage of Paper in Madras

*1123 Shri Subbiah Ambalam: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a shortage of paper and consequent rise in prices thereof in Madras,

(b) whether any representation has been received from the State Government in this regard, and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Centre?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c) Due to cut in imports on account of foreign exchange difficulties, there was shortage of paper in Madras and elsewhere in the country and consequently there was rise in prices. The Madras Government brought to the notice of the Central Government the difficulties experienced by consumers in their State. In order to reduce the shortage and high prices in the country, Central Government instructed the Paper Manufacturers to distribute their products equitably and also to

exercise control over their distributors and retailers. Nepa Newsprint is also being made available free of duty for printing of cheap text books, etc. A small Committee to deal with complaints about unduly high prices charged by dealers has also been functioning. The question of fixing fair prices has been referred to the Tariff Commission and their report is expected by May, 1959.

Purchase of Mesta by State Trading Corporation

*1124. { Shri P. G. Sen:
Shri Jhulan Sinha:
Shri Bholanath Biswas:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the purchase of mesta variety of jute is being refused by the State Trading Corporation,

(b) if so, the grounds thereof, and

(c) what measures are being proposed to give relief to the growers in respect of sale of mesta?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b) The State Trading Corporation are concentrating mainly on the purchase of raw jute and are not buying the mesta variety, the Corporation has been authorised to purchase raw jute for export and naturally they are interested in such varieties as have an export possibility.

(c) The mills have been asked to increase their purchase of raw jute and mesta, at the instance of Government, the banking industry has agreed recently to provide additional facilities which will be equally applicable to purchase of mesta as for raw jute. These measures have been taken only recently, and further measures can be considered subsequently in the light of the experience gained.