

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri P. M. Lakshmi Nandan): (a) to (c). It is not clear what financial irregularities are being referred to. Serious irregularities are included in the Audit Reports which are normally placed on the Table of the House. The Audit Report, 1958, has already been placed before Parliament and it does not refer to any financial irregularities in respect of Missions or Posts abroad under the control of the Ministry of External Affairs.

In a recent Local Audit Inspection Report on the accounts of the Commission of India, Nairobi certain objections have been raised by the local audit team. These are being examined in consultation with the Mission concerned. Any point which is not settled to the satisfaction of Audit will, in due course, come before the House in the form of Audit Report.

Wastage of Molasses in Sugar Factories

*1376. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of molasses produced in Sugar factories go waste; and

(b) the steps taken, if any, to utilize them?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Only about 18 per cent. of the total molasses produced in the sugar factories go waste

(b) Steps have been taken to increase the capacity for the production of alcohol and other industries in which molasses is used as raw material. Facilities are also afforded for the export of surplus molasses

Export of Jute Goods to Africa

*1382. Shri Saiganna: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of Jute goods to West and East Africa

from India has been hampered by Pakistan's competition; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to meet the competition?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tractors for Dandakaranya Scheme

*1383. { Shri Madhwanani:
Shri Morarka:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any order has been placed for the purchase of tractors and land clearing equipment for the Dandakaranya Scheme;

(b) if so, with whom this order is placed and the value of this order;

(c) the approximate time by which the deliveries would be made; and

(d) whether orders were placed by tenders or by any other method?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mohr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes.

(b) Director General, Ordnance Factories. The value of the order is Rs. 88.46 lakhs

(c) By September, 1959

(d) After inviting tenders.

Indians in Burma

*1384. Shri Morarka: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian nationals residing in Burma have been deported, detained and/or sent to Coco Islands without trial;

(b) if so, the number of persons so deported, detained or sent to Coco Islands; and

(c) the reasons for such measures and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Some Indian nationals residing in Burma have been deported or detained in jails.

(b) As far as could be ascertained from reports received by our Ambassador, 17 Indian nationals have so far been deported, 14 are awaiting deportation and 13 are in detention. Three out of those under detention are in Cocos Islands and the rest are serving their detention in different jails in other parts of Burma.

(c) The charges against these Indian nationals have not been specifically mentioned, but all those who have been deported, or are under orders of deportation, have been classified as undesirable aliens under the Burmese Foreigners' Act. It is reported that these arrests and deportations have been made for the alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Regulations or for alleged hoarding, black-marketing and other anti-social practices.

Representations have been made by our Embassy in Rangoon to ensure that Indian nationals are not deported or detained unjustly.

Power Tools and Appliances Company, Calcutta

*1385. Shri Joachim Alva: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Tools and Appliances Company, Calcutta has been permitted to import machine tools; and

(b) why are these machine tools permitted to be imported in the face of the production of Hindustan Machine Tools?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No 89.]

Starch Factory in Kerala

*1386. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kunhan:

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

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for setting up a starch factory in Kerala for the production of starch from Tapioca flour; and

(b) if so, at what stage is the proposal?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Nearly two years ago, the Government of India had approved a scheme submitted by Messrs. Corn Products Refining Company, New York, to set up a Tapioca Starch Factory in Kerala in collaboration with Messrs. Parry & Co., Madras; but the promoters have since abandoned it.

Import of Sensitised Photo Materials

*1387. Shri Dinesh Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether sensitised photo materials are being imported by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd.;

(b) if so, the value of such imports during 1958 (country-wise); and

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation have proper storage facilities for these materials?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Imports to the value of Rs. 7,50,000 from the G.D.R. ↗

(c) Proper storage facilities are available with the State Trading Corporation's business associates.