

converting the occasion of the Short Notice Question into a means of discussing the Kashmir issue.

We shall proceed to the next business.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DISPLACED PERSONS IN TRIPURA

*398. **Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the number of displaced persons who have entered Tripura after the introduction of the Passport System?

(b) What amount has been granted for the rehabilitation of these new displaced persons?

(c) Have new colonies been opened?

(d) If so, how many and how many people have been accommodated therein?

(e) How many people still remain to be settled?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

INDIANS IN KUWAIT

*399. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are Indian residents in Kuwait;

(b) if so, their number; and

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry regarding their condition, and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Yes, there are at present about 1960 Indians in Kuwait.

(c) An Indian Goodwill Mission was sent to Kuwait in December 1948, with specific instructions to investigate, *inter alia*, the condition of Indians there. The Mission reported certain grievances of the Indian employees of the Kuwait Oil Company and made recommendations for redressing them. Appropriate action was taken by the Government of India in the matter. Since October, 1950, a senior officer of the Indian Legation, Baghdad, has been paying periodical visits to Kuwait to inquire into the welfare of the Indian community there.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

*405. **Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether printed copies of the final Five Year Plan will be available to Members of Parliament during the current Session?

(b) What is the progress of the Bharat Sewak Samaj in securing public co-operation for the working out of the Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Naanda): (a) Cyclostyled copies of the Report on the Five Year Plan will be supplied to Members of Parliament during the present Session.

(b) The Bharat Sewak Samaj has begun to function in several States.

SINGARANI COAL FOR TOBACCO CURING

*406. **Shri Bachhikotiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have received a number of applications demanding Singarani coal from various tobacco growers' bodies in Andhra?

(b) Are Government aware that the above variety of coal is best suited for tobacco-curing?

(c) What steps are being taken by Government to meet the demands of the tobacco-growers?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A representation was received by the Coal Commissioner from Guntur District Tobacco Growers and Curers Co-operative Society, Ltd., Ongole, for the supply of the major portion of their quota of coal from Singarani Collieries.

(b) It would be difficult to say so without examining the suitability of all other coals for tobacco curing.

(c) The current programme provides for the supply of 84 per cent. of the quota from the Singarani Collieries and the balance from West Bengal/Bihar and Talcher Coalfields.

HOUSES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN DELHI

*417. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi has got any new plan for constructing new houses for displaced persons; and

(b) if so, how many houses are planned for construction?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) A plan for the construction of tenements, houses and shops was finalised in consultation with the State Government in the beginning of the financial year 1952-53.

(b) Tenements	8000
Houses/flats	1110
Shops	890
TOTAL	10,000 Units.

WORLD BANK AID FOR STEEL PRODUCTION

*418. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Bank aid is likely for the steel production expansion programme of the Government of India; and

(b) what happened to the Japanese and the German proposal for setting up a new steel mill in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) The question is hypothetical. I am unable to hazard an answer.

(b) A proposal has been made by a Japanese Industrialist. The proposal is being examined.

INDIAN-OWNED NEWS AGENCIES

*419. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the number of Indian-owned news agencies in India?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Unlike newspapers which are required to file a declaration under the Press and Registration of Books Act, at present no registration under the Act is necessary in the case of news agencies and Government have, therefore, no accurate information regarding the number of such news agencies.

PRICES OF CEMENT

*420. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the prices of cement prevailing in Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Gauhati?

(b) Is it a fact that each bag of cement must contain 112 lbs. of cement?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, how is it that one bag of cement in Assam contains 90 lbs. of cement only?

(d) What is the reason for this disparity?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to supply cement to Assam at a uniform rate?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The f.o.r. destination price of cement which the producers are allowed to charge at Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay is Rs. 71 per ton plus cost of packing. At Gauhati, an addition over this price depending on the actual freight incurred in effecting supplies to this remote station, is allowed. Retail prices are fixed by the State Governments concerned on the basis of the price chargeable by the producers, after taking into account handling and other incidental charges.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) The remoteness of this State from any cement factory and the transport conditions in the State render it impossible to make available cement at a uniform rate throughout the State.

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*421. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the answer given to my Starred Question No. 1564 on the 8th July, 1952 regarding priority given to the development of cottage industries, and state the exact methods by which Government have given or contemplate giving high priority to the following cottage industries:

(i) Khadi; (ii) Ghani-oil; (iii) Paddy-thrashing; and (iv) hand-grinding of corn?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (i) Khadi.

It has been decided to set up a "Khadi and Village Industries Board". This Board will look after the development of Khadi and Village industries.

(ii) Ghani oil.

(a) The Indian Central Oilseeds Committee has been financing schemes in the various States for the organization of co-operative societies of village oilmen.

(b) It has taken steps to popularise the *Wardhaghanis* which is an improvement over indigenous *ghanis*.

(c) Schemes have been sanctioned for the grant of interest free loans to certain State Governments up to two lakhs of rupees for each State for financing co-operative societies of oilmen.