

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know what attempts have been made by the Government of India to utilise the mica produced in this country for local consumption?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question was answered before.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It was asked and answered.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether there was any decline in the quantity of mica exported during 1952 as compared to the 1951 exports and, if so, to what extent?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position, as I have stated, is that except for the stock-piling years the quantity of export is more or less normal. I think in 1950-51 and 1951-52 which were the stock-piling years, the figures were 4 lakh and odd cwts. in 1950-51 and a similar quantity in 1951-52; that is for the eight months from April to December of 1951-52 it was 2,19,000 cwts. And I think that during 1952 we shall exceed the figure of export for the normal year, namely 1949-50, which was 2,97,000 cwts.

Shri Punnoose: The Mica Enquiry Committee Report says that mica mining in Travancore has been conducted off and on for the last fifty years. May I know whether any step has been taken by Government to put it on permanent and steady basis?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether there was any fall in the price of mica in 1952?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir, there has been.

Shri Raghavaiah: Since the imposition of a ban on the export of scrap mica is one of the recommendations of the Mica Enquiry Committee, may I know whether Government is convinced that the export of scrap mica is better standing in the way of getting better prices for exports of sheet mica?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This matter, as I said, is under consideration. Government have not been convinced one way or the other yet.

ALLOTMENT TO BIHAR FOR UPLIFT OF BACKWARD CLASSES

*1180. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted to the State of Bihar for the uplift of Backward Classes during the Plan period;

(b) the amount spent so far; and

(c) the item under which the amount has been spent?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Government of Bihar have received Central grant-in-aid under Article 273(1) as follows:—

1951-52 Rs. 15 lakhs.

1952-53 Rs. 18 lakhs.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the number of schools and hostels opened under the Plan up till now in Bihar?

Shri Hathi: I have not got the details thereof.

Shri K. P. Sinha: Under the Plan is there any welfare scheme for the backward classes other than scheduled tribes?

Shri Hathi: As regards the backward classes I may invite the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that under article 340 of the Constitution a Commission has been appointed. As to what steps should be taken in respect of the classes which are socially and educationally backward the Commission will make recommendations, and the grants-in-aid to be given by the Centre will depend upon those recommendations.

SHIP-BUILDING AT VISHAKHAPATNAM

*1181. **Shri Altkar:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what parts of the ships built at Vishakhapatnam are manufactured in India and whether any parts are required to be imported from foreign countries?

(b) What time will it take to manufacture in India, the parts that are now imported from foreign countries?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The hull, superstructure, deck and cabins, which constitute about 60 per cent. of a ship, are constructed at Visakhapatnam. Materials like electrical fittings, copper