

state how many firms are there in India which produce lubricants?

(b) How many of them have foreign capital invested in them and in what amounts?

(c) How many of them utilise vegetable oil for their manufacture?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) to (c). Assam Oil Company is the only concern which produces lubricants. They use a little quantity of vegetable oil for the manufacture of lubricants. The entire issued capital of £ 400,000 invested by it is foreign. In addition to this some firms, however, import base oil from abroad and blend it with material available locally including vegetable oil for making different grades of lubricants.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what is the quantity imported and how much foreign exchange is involved in this?

Shri Buragohain: In the year 1951-52 the lubricants imported were of the order of 34 million gallons and the value would be Rs. 2.17 crores.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Arising from the answer, it is obvious that there are no lubricants indigenously produced but may I know whether, in view of the Planning Commission's recommendations about the growth of this industry, anything has been done in this direction to produce lubricants from vegetable oil?

Shri Buragohain: I have stated that the Assam Oil Co. does produce lubricants in this country but it is not very much. The rest, of course, is imported. So far as the use of vegetable oil is concerned, it is more expensive than the importing of base oil and blending it with vegetable oil. In fact, this matter was tried during the war years and vegetable oil was used as a substitute but since the war, it has been stopped.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: May I know whether there are any Indian shareholders in the firms which are manufacturing lubricants in India and what is the percentage?

Shri Buragohain: Assam Oil Co. is the only concern who are manufacturing these lubricants and their entire capital is foreign. That is what I have stated.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: I want to know whether they have invited any

indigenous capital in the meantime. Are they going to admit any indigenous Indian shareholder in that firm?

Shri Buragohain: I am not aware of it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what steps Government have taken already or propose to take in order to increase the lubricants in India?

Shri Buragohain: The Government are trying all they can to locate new sources of oil by prospecting through its own Geological Survey of India and through Oil Companies who are interested in this work.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether Government proposes to revise the Five Year Plan in this part because the Minister said that it is more expensive to have indigenous lubricants?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is the Assam Oil Co. producing any mineral oil lubricants?

Shri Buragohain: I do not know what the hon. Member means by mineral oil lubricants.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister should find out what it is. Of all the lubricants, mineral oil lubricant is most extensively used.

Shri Buragohain: Lubricant, if I may explain, is not a product in itself. It is not a petroleum product. It is actually produced as a by-product at Digboi and is a mineral oil lubricant.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENT OF C.P.W.D.

*889. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the classified list of the Engineering Gazetted Establishment of the Central Public Works Department, corrected upto the 1st January, 1949 was published in 1950;

(b) why 'Displaced officers appointed as Officiating Assistant Engineers in Central Engineering Service Class II' were grouped separately;

(c) whether the list was up-to-date;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what were the reasons for publishing a list which was not up-to-date; and

(e) when an up-to-date list is expected to be published?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These officers were grouped separately as principles regarding fixation of their seniority were not settled at the time the list was sent to the Press.

(c) The list was corrected upto 1st January 1949 as shown in the list.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) By the end of April, 1953.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government have settled the claims of these officers with regard to their status, conditions of service, pay etc.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The list will be up-to-date. The publication of the list does not have anything to do really with the settlement of claims.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What are the reasons for such inordinate delay in publishing these lists?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would remind the hon. Member that I gave him the reasons sometime back in reply to another question. If he wants them again, I have no hesitation in repeating them.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In reply to a similar question last time, the hon. Minister said that the irregularities and mistakes that crept into the list would be verified by the Minister. May I know whether he has done it?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir. It is for this reason that the matter has been somewhat delayed and instead of the undertaking that I gave on that occasion that the list would be published in January, now it will be published in April.

Shri B. S. Murthy: With reference to clause (b) of the answer, may I know whether any complaints have been made and if so, what action has been taken?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is a very general question. Any number of complaints might have been made. I cannot be expected to give as to what happened with regard to each complaint unless he could specify some of those complaints.

GANDAK VALLEY PROJECT

***890. Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gandak Valley Project will be started in the next financial year; and

(b) whether the question of giving special grants for this project to the State Governments concerned by the Central Government is under consideration?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The project is not included in the Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India insisted that Bihar Government should include any of the two projects, the Gandak Valley Project or the Kosi Project in the Five Year Plan?

Shri Hathi: It was a question of necessity. They were asked to prefer which of the two should be included.

Shri B. N. Roy: May I know whether it is a fact that this project needs less capital in comparison with other important projects as Bhakra-Nangal, Damodar, etc.?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member saying that it ought to be included?

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is Government aware that this scheme is the cheapest of all the schemes in India?

Shri Hathi: May be.

COMMODITIES OF TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL

***892. Shri H. S. Prasad:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the commodities that come to the Indian Union from Nepal?

(b) What are the commodities that Nepal imports from the Indian Union?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 19.]

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

***894. Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid to the Punjab Government from the Hand-loom Fund?