

(f) The cost of furniture supplied to these flats are:—

'B' type .. Rs. 1,756/- per unit.

'C' type .. Rs. 1,865/- per unit.

(g) The rent of such furniture has been calculated at the rate of 9 per cent. *per annum* of the capital cost of 'durable' furniture and 16½ per cent. *per annum* of the capital cost of 'non-durable' furniture. Generally speaking, all wooden furniture is classified as 'durable', and druggets, door mats and curtains as "non-durable".

TREATY WITH U.S.A.

*1161. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation is being negotiated between India and the United States;

(b) whether both the countries have expressed interest in negotiating a double taxation treaty; and

(c) if so, when such a treaty is likely to materialise?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The treaty is still under discussion between the two Governments and it is not possible to say when it will be concluded.

INDIA STORES DEPARTMENT, LONDON

*1162. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state how many of the officers working in the India Stores Department, London are qualified to make professional inspection of stores?

(b) Is there any separate agency to do this work?

(c) What is the total business handled by the India Stores Department during the current year?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragoina): (a) 73.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Statistics are maintained for financial years only. During 1952-53, the total value of purchases made by the Department was £19.2 million.

CHANDERNAGORE

*1163. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the shop-employees of Chandernagore for promulgation of the West Bengal Shops and Establishment Act there; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take with regard to this matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes; on the 4th August, 1953.

(b) Government have decided to extend this Act to Chandernagore as soon as possible. Steps are being taken to provide the necessary administrative machinery to implement the Act.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES

*1164. **Shri B. N. Kuroel:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state what are the main steps Government have taken so far under the Five Year Plan to improve the economic condition of the scheduled castes in the country?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The State Governments do not distinguish between scheduled castes and other backward classes. Rs. 4 crores have been provided in the Plan by the Central Government for expenditure on the welfare of scheduled castes and other backward classes. Programmes under this provision are being formulated. State Governments have made, in addition, a provision for Rs. 10 crores for scheduled castes and backward classes as distinguished from scheduled tribes for whom a provision of Rs. 23 crores has been made by them in their Plans. As regards the types of schemes which

have been undertaken by the State Government in the matter, attention is invited to the Statement laid on the Table of the House in response to unstarred question No. 703 on 25th March 1953.

BARODA RADIO STATION

*1165. **Shri H. G. Vaishnav:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for closing the A.I.R. Station at Baroda has been dropped for the present; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). No, Sir, the Baroda transmitter of All India Radio will however, be closed only when the new high power 50 KW mediumwave transmitter starts functioning at Ahmedabad.

RIVER PROJECTS IN MAHARASHTRA

*1166. **Shri Kanavade Patil:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the intention of Government to give priorities to big river projects for irrigation in Maharashtra with a view to give permanent relief to the famine-stricken areas in Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have asked for the opinion of the Bombay State Government on this point; and

(c) if so, what reply has been given by the Government of Bombay regarding the priority to be given to big river projects for irrigation?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathl): (a) to (c). The Central Government are at present considering in consultation with the Government of Bombay a programme of additional irrigation schemes for the scarcity affected areas of Maharashtra.

RAW MATERIALS FOR MATCH INDUSTRY

*1167. **Pandit C. N. Malviya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the average quantity

of raw materials used in the match factories in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): On the basis of installed capacity, a statement giving the average quantity of raw materials used in the match factories in relation to average production has been worked out, and is laid on the Table of the House. It should not however be treated as being anything more than a very rough estimate.

STATEMENT

Raw material	Average quantity used
1. Amorphous Phosphorus	160 tons
2. Potassium Chlorate	2,000 tons
3. Sulphur	200 tons
4. Blue & Green Match Paper	2,880 tons
5. Glue	400 tons
6. Wood	96,000 tons
7. Starch	1,600 tons

MATCHES

*1168. **Pandit C. N. Malviya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirements of matches in India annually;

(b) the average value of matches exported annually; and

(c) the number of match factories in India State-wise which have stopped production or have been wound up since 1st January 1953 up-to-date?

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

(a) The requirements are estimated at about 500,000 cases of 50 gross boxes of 60 sticks each.

(b) Rs. 88,000/- during 1951-52 and Rs. 98,000/- during 1952-53.

(c) According to the statistics available with the Government, three factories have closed down during the current year, one each in the States of Madras, Saurashtra and Mysore.

AUDITION TESTS FOR A.I.R. ARTISTS

*1169. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of Information and Broad-