

maintenance of shrines and holy places in India and Pakistan at an Inter-Dominion Conference, but subsequently turned down the proposal for the reason that the matters proposed for discussion were either already agreed upon or were under scrutiny of a separate body. The Government of India have again impressed on the Government of Pakistan the need for holding such a Conference and are awaiting their reply.

STEEL PIPES AND TUBES (PRICES)

36. Dr. Amin: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel pipes and tubes of the same size and type are sold by various stockists at different prices even though there is price control over their distribution;

(b) whether Government have considered the possibility that importers, by furnishing fictitious invoices, may have their prices approved by the Government while at the same time in collaboration with foreign shippers, they may have reserved the margin of profit and allowed it to accumulate in foreign countries, thus extensively raising the prices to the Indian consumer; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to devise some means for bringing about uniformity in the prices of pipes and tubes, the distribution of which is controlled by the Government?

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

(a) to (c). Indigenous production being negligible, Indian requirements of steel pipes and tubes are met almost entirely by imports. The controlled prices at which dealers are required to sell the pipes and tubes are based on the landed cost of the relevant consignment. The landed cost being different in each case depending on the time and country of import, it is inevitable that the controlled prices of the same size and type of tubes sold by various stockists sometimes differ.

It is not proposed to fix a uniform controlled price owing to the difficulties involved.

I recognise that there is a possibility that importers, by furnishing fictitious invoices in collusion with the foreign suppliers, may get their prices fixed at unjustifiably high levels, but with Government's present policy of issuing licences for imports freely and consequent competition amongst the various importers, we need have

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no great apprehensions in the matter.

REPRESENTATION BY PAKISTAN REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

37. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a representation of grievances made recently by the Pakistan Refugee Association (Bihar), Bhagalpore, and whether any steps are being taken in regard thereto?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): The representation was referred to the Government of Bihar whose comments are awaited.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

38. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state how many community projects have so far been started and in what States and what districts?

(b) What States and Districts are to have community projects in the next instalment if decisions have been taken in this respect?

(c) Has any organisation been set up to evaluate the results of the working of these projects?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) A list giving the information is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No. 39].

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

A.I.R. STATIONS AT KOZHIKODE AND TRIVANDRUM

39. Shri N. P. Damodaran: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed under the various branches of the All India Radio in Kozhikode and Trivandrum (giving comparative figures);

(b) the time allotted for the various programmes in each of the stations at Kozhikode and Trivandrum (giving comparative time under each item);

(c) the total amounts spent on each of the stations at Kozhikode and Trivandrum during 1950-51 and 1951-52; and

(d) the amounts spent in relaying programmes from Trivandrum to Kozhikode and from Kozhikode to Trivandrum, separately?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). Statements giving the requisite information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 40].

(d) The annual expenditure on the hiring of telephone circuit between Trivandrum and Kozhikode for relaying programmes between the two Stations is approximately Rs. 32,000/-. It is however, not possible to calculate separately the expenditure incurred in relaying programmes from Trivandrum to Kozhikode and from Kozhikode to Trivandrum, without expending a great deal of labour which will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

PRICE OF COCOANUT AND ITS PRODUCTS

40. Shri C. R. Iyyani: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what step has been taken to stop the downward trend in the price of Coconut and Coconut oil, coir and coir products;

(b) what is the number of people employed in these industries;

(c) how many factories or institutions for these industries have closed or slowed down their work; and

(d) what is the number of persons who have been thrown out of employment as a result of such closing down or slowing down of work?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No special step has been taken by Government as the fall in the prices of these commodities is a part of the general fall in prices and not brought about by any special causes. But Government have been informed that recently coconut oil prices have registered a sharp upward rise.

(b) It is estimated that about 4000 persons are employed in the mills crushing copra with the aid of power. 6,000,000 persons are estimated to be engaged in the coir industry.

(c) Coconut oil—About 10 factories in Travancore-Cochin. Information in case of Madras State is not available and is being collected.

Coir Factories—108.

(d) Information with regard to coconut oil factories is not available.

COIR GOODS (EXPORT)

41. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the price of coir goods, including yarn and fibre exported from Cochin harbour during the first half of 1951-52; and

(b) the price of coir goods exported from Cochin harbour during the first half of 1952-53?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 41].

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME

42. Shri Velayudhan: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under the Industrial Housing Scheme by each State;

(b) the sum allotted by the Centre for this purpose recently; and

(c) the number of houses constructed so far Statewise?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). A statement containing the required information in respect of the years 1950-51 and 1951-52, is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No. 42]. As for the current year, as the Honourable Member may be aware, a new Subsidised Housing Scheme has been recently published after consultations with the State Governments and representatives of employers and workers. Applications received for aid under the scheme are being examined. It is hoped that construction of houses under this new scheme would start before the end of this year.

JUTE GOODS (EXPORT)

43. Shri A. C. Guha: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of jute goods exported in the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) their respective price every year;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned every year;

(d) the customs duty realised every year; and

(e) this year's expected export in quantity and price and customs duty?