

Starred Question No. 7 on the 16th February, 1956 and state the uniform rate of rebate introduced on the sale of handloom cloth?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): One and a half annas in the rupee, except in Bombay where the rate is 2 annas.

आसाम में रबड़ के वृक्ष

३७३. श्री अमर सिंह डामर : क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) आसाम में कितनी एकड़ भूमि में रबड़ के वृक्ष पाये जाते हैं और कितनी एकड़ भूमि में रबड़ के वृक्ष लगाये गये हैं ;

(ख) क्या इन वृक्षों से रबड़ निकाली जाती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं तो इसका क्या कारण है ?

वाणिज्य और उद्योग तथा लोहा और इस्पात मंत्री (श्री टी० टी० कृष्णमाचारी) : (क) आसाम के १,००० एकड़ क्षेत्र में रबड़ के पेड़ यहाँ वहाँ पाये जाते हैं। जिस क्षेत्र में रबड़ के पेड़ लगाये जाते हैं, उसका क्षेत्रफल लगभग १,६५० एकड़ है।

(ख) तथा (ग). आसाम में पैदा होने वाली इस विशेष प्रकार की रबड़ (फिस्क इलेस्टिका) की मांग नहीं है, इसलिए इसका दूब नहीं निकाला जाता।

NON-OFFICIAL PURCHASE ADVISORY COUNCIL

374. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 740 on the 12th December, 1955 and state when the Non-Official Purchase Advisory Council will be set up?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): The proposal was discussed at a Conference of representatives of trade and industry on the 28th of February, 1956. The Council will be set up shortly.

ALLOTTABLE PROPERTIES

375. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of allottable properties whose values have been raised above Rs. 10,000 so as to bring them within auction limits after the passing of rules in Parliament?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Values of properties have not been raised with the object of bringing them within the saleable limit. The reasons for the meticulous valuation of allottable properties have been explained in detail in a Press Note dated the 29th December, 1955, copy of which is attached. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 14.]

STEEL SHORTAGE

376. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 121 on the 21st February, 1956 and state what schemes have been evolved and what proposals are being considered to meet the shortage of steel?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): From a long range point of view it has been decided to increase indigenous production from the present level of 1.2 million tons to 4.5 million tons by 1960. To meet the situation till then, it has been decided to import between 5.6 million tons of steel.

DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

377. **Shri H. G. Vaishnav:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aid had been sanctioned to Hyderabad State for the development of the following village Industries in the year 1955:

- (i) the Gur and Khandsari Industry;
- (ii) the Palm Gur and other Palm Products;