

**EXEMPTION OF DUTY GRANTED TO
SMALLER STRAWBOARD UNITS**

*384. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please[^] to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smaller units producing strawboard have been granted special exemption of Duty;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for giving such an exemption; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend similar exemption to small sugar factories?

THE MINISTER M- PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Prior to 1-3-1964, slab exemptions with preferential rates of duty were available only to smaller units producing straw-board. However, slab exemptions have been now extended to all manufacturers irrespective of their output on equitable considerations.

(b) The rate of duty on 'Straw Boards' was raised from 15 r.P. per Kg. to 35 nP. per Kg. in 1963, bringing the 'Straw Board' fully on par with—'Mill Boards' and 'Grey Boards'. Simultaneously liberalised slab exemption[^] with preferential rates as enjoyed by Mill-Boards were prescribed to help the smaller units, manufacturing strawboards also. However, as this gave excessive benefits to marginal producers, the scheme has had to be further revised.

(c) No, Sir.

**STUDY GROUP FOR ENGINEERING
INDUSTRIES**

*392. SHRI R. N. KAKATI: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a; whether Government have received the final report of the Study

Group set up to undertake a detailed study of the export potentialities of various engineering industries; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is expected shortly.

**FLOOR PRICE OF COTTON IN MAHA-
RASHTRA**

*393. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have submitted any representation to the Central Government urging to raise floor prices of cotton in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) No, Sir; not recently.

(b) Does not arise.

LOWER JHELUM SCHEMB

*398. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmir Government have sent any scheme for the utilisation of lower Jhelum in the Kashmir valley; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) and (b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The original project report for the Lower Jhelum Hydroelectric Scheme was received from the Jammu and Kashmir Government in the Central Water and Power Commission in August, 1962. It was, however, revised by the State Government in August, 1963. The Project is economically and technically feasible.

The scheme was considered in the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Irrigation and Flood Control on the 17th January, 1964, in which it was decided that a small Committee consisting of the officers of Central Water and Power Commission and the Planning Commission should discuss the technical aspects of the scheme and their report should then be considered at the next meeting. The next meeting was held on the 30th January, 1964 but as the report of the Committee was not ready, it was decided to postpone consideration of the project to the next meeting.

EXPENDITURE OF SALT DEVELOPMENT WORKS

*399. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent during the Second Five Year Plan in respect of Government salt works and private salt factories for (i) development works and (ii) welfare of labour; and

(b) the amount spent in the first two years of the Third Five Year Plan for execution of development works in the private sector especially in the Gujarat region?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b)

The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

MINT AT KOLAR

*400. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a modern mint is likely to be started at Kolar in Mysore State?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): Yes, Sir.

We are considering the location of the new Mint near the Kolar Gold Fields. A final decision can be taken only after receipt of the project report from the Mint Master, Hyderabad.

PAY SCALES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS IN C.P.W.D.

*401. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the scale of pay and the nature of work assigned to the following categories of officers in the central office of the C.P.W.D., namely, (i) Circle Office Superintendent, (ii) Section Officer, (iii) Assistant and (iv) Stenographer (CSSS); and

(b) whether there is any proposal to revise the scale of pay of Circle Office Superintendents, and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a)

A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) No Sir.