

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not quite understand this question, Sir. Purchased from whom? Purchased by Government? I do not know, Sir, but these things are normally being done by the Government directly. May be some small transactions may be taking place for examination or something like that. Anyhow I do not know. So far as this particular question is concerned, we have found these monazite sands there and this investigation is taking place. We really, for the present, do not require them in the sense that we have plenty in Travancore, but we want to know exactly how much is there and then decide how to use it. I may say that the work is chiefly being done by the students of the university there who have been good at this work.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether Government have any information that Bihar has such deposits in plenty?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: So far as I know, Bihar has no sea coast.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether such deposits are in Bihar?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There are no monazite sands in Bihar so far as I know, but some uranium has been found there. Thus far not in very large quantities but some has been found.

HOUSES CONSTRUCTED FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

*39. **SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE and INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of houses constructed for the handloom weavers during the First Plan Period?

THE MINISTER FOR CONSUMER INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): The number of houses constructed for handloom weavers during the First Plan period for which Government have given assistance is 97.

DISTRIBUTION OF RAW SILK IMPORTED IN 1955-56

*40. **SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:** Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state how the quantity of raw silk imported into the country during the year 1955-56 was distributed among the various States?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

*41. [*Postponed to the 6th August 1956.*]

*42. [*For answer, vide col. 154 infra.*]

*43. [*The questioner Shrimati Violet Alva was absent. For answer, vide col. 157 infra.*]

*44. [*The questioner (Shri Maheswar Naik) was absent. For answer vide cols. 157-58 infra.*]

REVISION OF COAL PRICES

*45. **SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:** Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state the effect the revision of coal prices by Government has had on the masses, and what benefits accrue thereby to the coal miners?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): An increase in the prices of coal became necessary because of the benefits by way of increased emoluments and additional concessions granted to the miners by the award of the All India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes). A list of the principal benefits accruing to the miners under this award is placed on the Table of the House. It is the Tribunal's award which has benefited the coal workers and not the increase in the price of coal, though the latter is the direct consequence of the award itself.

The upward revision of coal prices cannot be said to have had any material effect on the masses, except that in large cities where soft coke is used as domestic fuel, the price of soft coke has been increased by annas two to annas three per maund.

List of principal benefits accruing to the miners under the award of the All India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes).

(1) Increase in basic wages.—The tribunal has sanctioned according to their own calculations, an average increase of about 40 per cent. in the wages of the miners. The percentage of increase varies according to the category of the worker. A minimum wage