

(b) whether any applications have been received for licences to erect new plants; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in affirmative, how many of them have been accepted and how many rejected?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) Six.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) They were accepted and one was rejected.

AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY FOR KHADI

30. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state what is the amount of subsidy for khadi proposed to be given in 1955-56?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): A lump sum provision of Rs. 2 crores has been proposed to be given as grants (including subsidies) for the development of the khadi industry during 1955-56.

MULTI-STOREYED OFFICE BUILDING AT QUEEN VICTORIA ROAD

31. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) when the multi-storeyed office building at Queen Victoria Road, New Delhi, will be completed;

(b) whether the construction work is going on according to schedule; and

(c) whether the estimated cost of the building has been exceeded and if so, by how much?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) It is likely to be completed by end of May next, excepting for the lifts.

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(b) No, Sir; it has taken a little longer than originally scheduled.

(c) Yes, Sir. The excess may be about 1 per cent.

MANUFACTURE OF VERMICULITE BRICKS

32. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether vermiculite bricks are manufactured in India;

(b) what are the materials used to manufacture these bricks; and

(c) the purposes for which these bricks are used?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The principal raw materials used in vermiculite bricks are vermiculite powder, and certain bonding agents such as clays, asbestos, etc.

(c) The bricks are used as insulation medium in furnaces and thermal units. These are set up with suitable cements one over the other, thus making a compact structure enclosing the regular high temperature refractories.

THIRD DIVISION CLERKS' REFUSAL TO DRAW THEIR SALARIES

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, the Third Division Clerks are refusing to draw their salaries. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Government, but nothing has been done so far. I think, the Government should make a statement with regard to this matter, because such things are very serious and have got serious repercussions in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Secretary.