

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that there is a great slump in the mica trade and we have got a lot of stocks of mica lying?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, it was so last year, but about this year I should like to have notice.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: What was the amount of mica that we exported last year?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The total export last year, during 1953-54, was 2,50,242 cwts. They were blocks, splittings and ground, scrap or waste.

SHRI V. P. RAO: May I know which are the countries that import Indian mica?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Almost all the important countries. In fact, India is the largest supplier of muscovite blocks, mica blocks, condensers and splittings accounting for 80 per cent. of the world's supply of dressed mica blocks, condensers and splittings.

YOL CAMP IN KANGRA VALLEY

*458. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on the Yol Camp in Kangra Valley in Punjab during each of the years from 1949-50;

(b) the number of Kashmiri displaced persons who were accommodated in this camp in each of those years;

(c) the date on which the camp was wound up;

(d) the areas from which these Kashmiri refugees were displaced and

(e) the year in which they were displaced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI J. K. BHONSLE): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 131.]

(c) 31st May, 1953.

(d) From the raider-held territory of Jammu and Kashmir State and those parts of raider-held territory which have now been liberated. Mostly they came from Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Poonch, Baramulla, Gilgit, Riasi, etc.

(e) Since October 1947.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: When this camp was closed what happened to those people who were dispersed from this camp?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: Well, Sir, they have been dispersed to various places of rehabilitation and they are well on the way of their being rehabilitated.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Am I to take it that though this camp is closed, rehabilitation work is going on at some other places?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: Yes, certainly.

*459. [For answer vide col. 2978 infra.]

*460. [For answer vide cols. 2978-2979 infra.]

*461. [The questioner (Shri J. V. K. Vallabharao) was absent. For answer vide cols. 2982-2983 infra.]

*462. [The questioner (Shri J. V. K. Vallabharao) was absent. For answer vide col. 2983 infra.]

IRON AND STEEL CONTROL EQUALISATION FUND

*463. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount lying in the Iron and Steel Control Equalisation Fund on 31st March 1954:

(b) whether loans are given from that Fund to the iron and steel industry for its expansion;

(c) the number of years in which such loans are recoverable; and

(d) the rate of interest charged on such loans?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
(SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR). (a)
Rs. 13,47,97,940.

(b) Government have agreed to make available from this Fund to the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the Indian Iron and Steel Company loans aggregating Rs 10 crores in each case spread over the next few years to enable these companies to expand their production capacity.

(c) and (d). No interest is chargeable on these loans till the 1st July 1958 or such later date as may be mutually agreed upon. The interest to be charged thereafter and the method of repayment will be decided by Government on the advice of the Tariff Commission

SHRI P C BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, whether the money in the Iron and Steel Control Equalisation Fund is merged in the Consolidated Fund of India or is separately deposited in the Reserve Bank?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR No, Sir I have not come prepared to answer questions regarding the Consolidated Fund of India, but next time I shall do so

SHRI B C GHOSE: 10 plus 10 crores are going to be given to the two companies and the Minister stated that there is something over 13 crores in the Fund?

SHRI D P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI B C. GHOSE How can it be

SHRI H C DASAPPA: Will the amounts be paid at a time or in instalments as and when the demands arise?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, as and when the demands arise

SHRI B C GHOSE Is it only for improvement of the technical equipment of the iron and steel industry or is it for any other purpose?

SHRI D. P KARMARKAR: They have got a definite programme of expansion.

SHRI M VALIULLA: As a result of this loan, will the production of Tatas increase from 7½ lakh tons to about 10 lakh tons?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR The special advances are to secure a speedy increase in the total output of steel in the country from the present level of one million tons a year to about 1.6 million tons

SHRI M VALIULLA: What about Tatas' production?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: Tatas—931,000 tons Indian Iron and Steel—700,000 tons

SHRI B. C GHOSE May I take it that there will be no increase in the price of steel with a view to augment this Fund so that that might be used for the rationalisation or the improvement of the industry?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR No, Sir the question of price is not connected with the idea of increasing this Fund

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that recently Mr. T T. Krishnamachari stated that we are going to produce about 6 million tons of steel in India?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: I shall look into it; I ask for notice.

SHRI B. C GHOSE: Is not the Fund built out of the difference between the prices that are charged to the consumers and that paid to the industry?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: Sir, there is what is called a 'retention price' Now, for instance, the difference between the maximum selling

price as fixed under the Control Order and the prices which the producers are allowed to retain, that is called retention price. As a result of an enquiry by the Tariff Commission in cases where the former are higher than the latter, it is paid into the Fund by the producers. That is the idea.

PAYMENTS TO NEWS AGENCIES

*464 SHRI P C BHANJ DEO Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the payments to news agencies by the All India Radio are at present being made on the basis of the number of radio licences, and

(b) whether it is proposed to make such payments on the basis of wordage supplied or used?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN) (a) and (b) The whole question is being reviewed in the light of the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee and the Press Commission.

SHRI P C BHANJ DEO May I know, Sir, when the Public Accounts Committee made its recommendation?

SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN I do not have the exact date. I only have the recommendations that they made.

SHRI P C BHANJ DEO What I would like to know is the reason for this unconscionable delay in carrying out the very simple recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee?

SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN There is no delay, Sir, but the Press Commission has also made certain recommendations and both have got to be viewed together and then we have got to come to certain decisions.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D VAIDYA. May I know what are the agencies?

SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN The Press Trust of India, The United Press of India, Agency France, NAAFEN, Arab News Agency.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D VAIDYA. What amount is annually paid to them?

SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN I have got the figures and it will take a long time to read them. If the Chair permits, I can give the figures for the five agencies and for the year 1953.

MR CHAIRMAN Supply them to the Member.

SHRI P C BHANJ DEO May I know whether the recommendations of the Press Commission vary in any way from or modify the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee because the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee is very simple, and they say that the Government should go on the basis of wordage instead of licences?

SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN But the Press Commission's Report is different from the Public Accounts Committee's.

SHRI S MAHANTY How are you going to reconcile this difference?

SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN We are considering the whole question and then we will come to certain decisions.

SHRI S MAHANTY By another Commission?

SHRI G RAJAGOPALAN No.

CONTROLS ON COTTON TEXTILES

*465 SHRI P C BHANJ DEO Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether during the year 1953-54 all controls on cotton textiles were practically removed, and