

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, whether the Minister is aware of the system of distribution obtaining in the States? May I know whether the distribution in the States is direct to the agriculturists, or through certain private agencies, and if it is through certain private agencies, what is the commission which these private agencies charge, and what is the increase in cost, when the fertilizer actually reaches the agriculturists?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: On previous occasions I have indicated how the system is working. The Central Fertilizer Pool allots such and such quantities to the States and each State in its turn has its own distribution system. In some cases they have entrusted it to the co-operative societies, for example in Bihar, to which the question relates: the work of distribution is entrusted to a co-operative Bank in that State. And in certain other places, private parties have been chosen, and yet in other places, the agricultural departments have been entrusted with this work. So, in each State the mechanism or the agency through which the State is distributing fertilisers to the agriculturists varies. So far as the commission paid is concerned, this also varies from State to State, but as a result of recent attempts to which I referred a little earlier, that has been made more or less uniform. We have fixed a ceiling beyond which the overall distribution cost should not exceed in each particular State. That is one of the ways in which we have made it possible for agriculturists to obtain fertilisers at a lower price. We are doing all these things.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: During the last session the hon. Minister informed the House that there was a shortfall in the production due to certain defects in the plant, and that they had appointed the original designer and engineers to look into the whole matter and report. May I know whether that report has been submitted? What is the result?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I submit that that is a different question altogether, but I am willing to answer if the Chairman permits me to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us close this question.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know how many foreign firms are engaged in the distribution of Sindri fertilisers?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The hon. Member is probably referring to the firms through whom the fertiliser is made available to tea plantations and coffee plantations. If that is so, there are ten firms who are doing this distribution business. I do not know which of them are entirely foreign and which of them are partly foreign. If the hon. Member wants, I will pass on the names to him.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I understand that I. C. I. has been appointed for distribution of the Sindri fertiliser. I want to know whether it is such a specialised matter that we cannot entrust it to Indian firms.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It is a matter of opinion. It is true that in some States the distribution agency is the firm which the hon. Member mentioned. The information at my disposal goes to show that they are doing the distribution work rather very satisfactorily.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AUSTRIAN MOUNTAINEERS IN DELHI

*461. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a party of three Austrian mountaineers have arrived in Delhi; and

(b) if so, which are the peaks and areas included in their programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) Cho Oyu peak in Himalayas in Nepal

FRENCH MOUNTAINEERS IN DELHI

*462. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a party of six French mountaineers have arrived in Delhi; and

(b) if so, which are the peaks and areas included in their programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) Makalu peak in Himalayas in Nepal.

MANUFACTURE OF TEXTILE MACHINE TOOLS

*470. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government have given permission to a foreign firm to establish a factory at Madras for the manufacture of textile machine tools?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): It is not clear what the hon. Member means by Textile Machine Tools. If he means textile machinery, the answer is in the negative.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE TEA LICENSING COMMITTEE

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

(a) what were the assets and liabilities of the Tea Licensing Committee on the eve of the formation of the Tea Board; and

(b) whether the Tea Board has taken over the assets and liabilities of the Licensing Committee?

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

RS. A. P.

(a) Assets	..	3,34,144	7	5
Liabilities	..	41,799	12	2.

(b) Yes, Sir.

CONSUMPTION OF RAYON YARN

224. SHRI B. M. SHAH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of consumption of Rayon yarn by Rayon Weaving Industry in each of 120 and 150 deniers in the year 1953 and in the first half of 1954;

(b) the figures of indigenous production of Rayon yarn in each of these deniers during the same periods; and

(c) the figures of imports of Rayon yarn in each of these deniers during the same periods?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) The figures of consumption of Rayon yarn separately in 120 and 150 deniers are not available.

The estimated annual requirements are 10 million lbs. for 120 deniers and 14 million lbs. for 150 deniers.

(b) The indigenous production of Rayon yarn in these deniers was:—

	120 deniers	150 deniers
Year (Million lbs.)	(Million lbs.)	(Million lbs.)
1953 .	2.31	6.68.
1954 .	1.82	3.37
(Jan.—June)		

(c) Figures of imports separately in deniers are not available.