

DR. P. C. MITRA: What are the articles that Afghanistan gets from India and we get from Afghanistan?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is mentioned there already—textiles and dried fruits.

WORKERS ENGAGED IN LEATHER INDUSTRY

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

(a) whether the total production of leather (vegetable and chrome-tanned hides) was 1.9 million pieces in 1953-54 against 2.1 million pieces in the previous year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this fall in production of leather; and

(c) what is the average number of workers engaged in leather industry in 1953-54 and in the previous year?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) No, Sir. The correct figures are—

(Million pieces)

1952-53	1.98
1953-54	2.07

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to information so far available, the number of workers in Part 'A' and Part 'C' States in 1952 was 18,295 and in the first half of 1953, 22,548. Further data are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: I cannot understand the reason for the answer to (b) "Does not arise".

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no fall. So, it does not arise.

INTERNAL RESOURCES FOR SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

*553. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have addressed any communication to the State Governments asking for data on the internal resources available for financing the second Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, how many State Governments have so far supplied the required data; and

(c) what are the internal sources of finances suggested by the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A communication in this respect was addressed to the State Governments in July, 1954.

(b) So far, the required data have been received from one or two States, while others have asked for more time.

(c) This information will be available only after returns from all the State Governments have been received and scrutinised.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Which are the States which have supplied this information?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Madhya Pradesh and North-East Frontier Agency.

SHRI PRASADARAO: What are the internal resources that they have suggested?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: That information is not yet complete. We have asked for further information.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Perhaps small savings.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: We have asked for further information on that point.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is it a fact that a number of States have been advised to explore the possibilities of finding additional resources by way of increasing taxation there?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The letter which the Planning Commission has addressed to them advises them to

look into the question of a betterment levy, increase in the water rates wherever possible, etc.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that the existing taxation is considered to be already very high and that there is very strong opposition in almost all the States to additional money being found by way of such tax increases?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. It is a matter of opinion.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

*554. **SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:** Will the Minister for Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the total capital outlay on Civil Works under the Ministry of Health since the attainment of Independence?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): Rs. 80.18 lakhs to end of March, 1954.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know whether revenues are not available for constructing buildings for the Health Ministry and, if they are, may I know the reasons for debiting this expenditure to Capital?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I see from the records here that my hon. friend has been corresponding with my colleague, the hon. Minister for Works, Housing and Supply, and I think that my hon. friend has some idea on this, since he has received an answer from the Minister explaining how these amounts are in fact adjusted.

RULES UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE COAL MINES ACT, 1952

*555. **SHRI B. GUPTA:** Will the Minister for Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules have been framed under Section 17 of the Coal Mines

(Conservation and Safety Ordinance) Act, 1952; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in framing these rules?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Yes. The rules have been framed and are about to be published.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know when the draft rules which had been finalised were first communicated to the Central Government?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: By whom? It is the Central Government that is responsible for the publication of the draft rules, and the rules were published on the 25th March, 1953.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know the reason for the delay in finalising the draft rules?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: We had to obtain the views of the various associations and other interested parties. The draft rules were published last year. Subsequently we had to consult the Law Ministry, the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission. Certain rules had to be framed under the Mines and Mineral Regulations Act, 1945, and we had to see that there was no overlapping between these rules. All this required time. That explains the delay.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is it a fact that the administration of aid given to the Coal Board is dealt with under these rules that are going to be published?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Wait till they are published.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I presume that the point mentioned by the hon. Member is also taken into account in framing these rules. More than that I cannot say.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that the absence of rules or