

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of these products are shooting up; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). Aluminium foil gumlined tissue paper and aluminium foil interleaved paper are produced in the country. All paper backed aluminium foil other than the above two varieties are not manufactured at present in India and are being allowed to be imported against licences issued for Serial No. 160/IV of the I.T.C. Schedule.

(c) and (d). A representation has been received that high prices are being charged for the indigenous products. The matter is being investigated.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: May I know when further action will be taken in the matter?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It should not be very long for this investigation to be completed. If the complaints are justified, we hope to take action shortly after the investigation is completed.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "INDIA NEWS" AND REVENUE ACCRUED THEREFROM

*91. **SHRI M. VALIULLA (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI)**: Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers to 'India News' published by the India House in London; and

(b) the amount of revenue accrued to Government from the advertisement published in this paper in each year from 1951-52 onwards?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) 700.

(b) Revenue from advertisement and subscription during 1951-52 and 1952-53 is Rs. 50,965 and Rs. 60,910 respectively. Separate figures of revenue from advertisement during these years are not available. Revenue from advertisement during 1953-54 is Rs. 39,595.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are we making profits or incurring losses on this?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: We are incurring loss.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the extent of the loss?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, it is a bit of mathematical calculation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will work it out.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The revenue is only from 700 subscribers and the price of each is two pence. It is a weekly publication.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is the Government aware that much of the space of the publication that is published called the **INDIA NEWS** is devoted to the publication of photographs of the High Commissioner and the Ministers and that nothing is done to counter the propaganda of the British against this country in England?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is a matter of opinion.

POWER ALCOHOL

*92. **SHRI M. VALIULLA (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI)**: Will the Minister for **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state what has been the production and offtake of power alcohol in the country in each year from 1950 onwards?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): The production and offtake of power alcohol since 1950 were as follows:—

	Production	Offtake
	(In million gallons)	
1950	4.5	4
1951	5.7	5.4
1952	7.7	7
1953	8.1	8

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are we exporting power alcohol to any other country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have no knowledge of any quantity being exported. We produce all that we require but we would like to have something more but I understand that the production is limited by the situation of the sugar mills.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that in several States power alcohol is being mixed with petrol and sold?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: What is the capacity of production in the country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The total installed capacity is 14.9 million gallons per year including that of the 3 units which are not in production.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: What are the difficulties in extending production? Why is not the production coming up to capacity?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The difficulty is that in some of the units there is not sufficient demand; but I should like to have notice for a fuller answer.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Is it not a fact that the price fixed for power alcohol is so small that it is too difficult to make it economically?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, that is not our information.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Is it not a fact that the duty

on power alcohol is high enough to make it very difficult to produce?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice to answer that.

PROF. G. RANGA: Are any steps being taken by the Government to investigate into this question in order to see that all the capacity that we have to produce this power alcohol is exploited in our country for our own benefit?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice for that.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: What is the total demand of power alcohol in this country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have not the figures with me.

DR. P. C. MITRA: How many power alcohol production centres are there in Bihar?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There are two in Bihar.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Where are they?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am rather frightened by that question.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Is there any resistance from the oil companies to the mixing of power alcohol with petrol?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There is no option but to do that, where prescribed.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are the Government importing a great deal of power alcohol to mix with petrol? Have the Government taken any steps to provide more alcohol for mixing with petrol as is being done in Mysore?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Mysore did that but they stopped it. In the other parts wherever power alcohol is available, we are taking steps to mix it in the proportion of 20.80 before giving it to the public.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: What is the excise duty on power alcohol?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I cannot say.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Is it not a fact that there is a very heavy infliction of excise duty on it and have Government not received representations to that effect?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice.

QUALIFIED INDIAN DOCTORS FOR AFGHANISTAN

*83. SHRI N. B. DESHMUKH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI V. K. DHAGE): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have received a request from the Government of Afghanistan for the services of qualified doctors; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). In May 1954, the Rector of the Kabul University made a request to the Indian Embassy in Kabul for the recruitment of highly qualified medical professors. The Government of India advertised the terms of appointment and also addressed various State Governments. Later on it was understood that the requirements of the Afghan Government were met from some other country. No medical professors were, therefore, recruited from India.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether those medical officers are Government officers or University professors?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No professors were recruited.

CONSULTATIONS AMONG COLOMBO POWERS

*84. SHRI N. B. DESHMUKH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI V. K. DHAGE): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letters have been sent recently by him to the Prime Minister of Ceylon urging the need for closer consultations among the Colombo Powers; and

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received from the Prime Minister of Ceylon?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Are there any proposals for a meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Colombo Conference countries at all?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What has happened to the Burmese Prime Minister's proposal for economic co-operation among the Colombo Conference countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I am not able to answer that.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether there is any proposal to call a Conference of the Prime Ministers of Asian countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I am not in a position to answer it.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Are they meeting again?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have no information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.