

the matter and whether they were consulted by the authorities who distribute these machines, before they were sent to India? If so, what instructions did you give?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : As I have already stated, the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency indicate the machines that are available for distribution as reparations, and the member nations can then go and inspect them, and after inspection they can indicate their preferences, but the final decision rests with the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know whether any of these machines from Germany have gone to the Machine Tool Factory at Jalahalli?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : I do not know whether any of these machines have gone to the Machine Tool Factory at Jalahalli, but the majority of the items are certainly machine tools.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question time is now over.

[Question No. 154 transferred as Unstarred Question No. 40 for 8th December 1952.]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REHABILITATION BOARDS

*155. SHRI B. GUPTA : Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals for the formation in West Bengal of rehabilitation boards consisting of the representatives of the different parties and refugee organisations ; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take on those proposals?

THE MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI AJIT PRASAD JAIN) :
(a) Yes.

(b) The decision rests with the West Bengal Government.

FURNACE OIL

*156. SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) what was the price (per ton) of furnace oil used in industries in the month of January in 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price has been increased by more than 300 per cent ; and, if so, the reasons for the increase ;

(d) whether similar products of petroleum such as gasoline, kerosene and crude oil have also registered such abnormal increase in prices ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps for the reduction of the prices ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN) : (a) and (i). The prices ex-main port installation, Bombay, exclusive of Sales and other local taxes were :—

		Rs.
January 1949	.	91 11 0
„ 1950	.	90 14 0
„ 1951	.	102 7 0
„ 1952	.	179 7 0

It will be noticed that the price has about doubled. The increase is due to general increase in tanker freight rates and in prices of petroleum products throughout the world, and also to stoppage of supplies ex-Abadan.

(c) The prices of these other petroleum products have also gone up though to varying extents.

(d) It will be appreciated that Government are not in a position to do anything directly to reduce these prices, having regard to the reasons that have led to the increase. But prices have already been reduced to some extent as from 1st December 1952

PETROL IN INDIA

*69. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government propose to take steps to obtain synthetic oil from coal by direct and indirect hydrogenation ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : Government has not come to any decision regarding manufacture of synthetic oil from coal by hydrogenation.

TEA MARKET AT CALCUTTA

*26. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the Indian Tea concerns for controlling by legislation the activities of certain European brokers' firms who virtually control the auction of tea at the Calcutta Market ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIANS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

31. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been apprised of the views of the Indian settlers in the territories which are the subject matter of federation in Central Africa with regard to such federation ; if so, what are those views ;

(b) what is the number of the people of Indian origin in each of the units of the proposed federation ; and

(c) (i) What is the political, economic and social status of the Indians there now, and (ii) what is the change likely to occur after the federation ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU) : (a) Yes. Indians in Central Africa in theory favour the ultimate ideal of a federation of Central African territories but are opposed to its imposition against the will of the Africans.

(b) There are approximately 4,150, 2,600 and 4,000 Indians in Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nayasaland respectively.

(c) In Northern and Southern Rhodesias, Indians have the same voting rights as Europeans. Due to their small numbers no Indian has been elected to the Legislative Councils so far. In Nayasaland one Indian has been nominated to the Legislative Council. Economically and socially Indians are comparatively well off though they do experience certain difficulties in obtaining trade licences in Northern and Southern Rhodesias.

The federation proposals are still in a formative stage ; it is, therefore, difficult to say how ultimately they will affect the Indian community.

PRODUCTION OF NEWSPRINT

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

(a) the annual requirements of newsprint in India ;

(b) (i) the quantity of newsprint produced at present in India ; (ii) the mills that are producing the newsprint ; and (iii) the maximum capacity of those mills ;

(c) (i) the number of paper mills which are under construction in India ; and (ii) the quantity of newsprint which each such mill will produce ; and

(d) the quantity of newsprint imported in 1950-51, 1951-52 and in the half year ending September 1952 ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) About 60,000 tons.