

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