

BABAR ROAD COLONY

*231. SHRI C. G. MISRA : Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY kindly refer to his reply to my starred question No. 47 in the Council on the 28th July 1952 and state the progress made in the matter of allowing the residents of the Babar Road Colony in New Delhi to raise a second storey on their present single-storeyed houses ?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : The New Delhi Municipal Committee have since decided to relax their Buildings Bye Laws to provide that the permissible pressure on the earth per square foot should be determined at site after testing the soil. It is proposed to carry on four tests, before allowing a second storey to be erected on Babar Road houses. Two tests have already been carried out and the remaining two are expected to be completed by the end of December 1952.

The question of recovery of additional premium and/or ground rent is still under consideration.

RISE IN THE PRICE OF COFFEE

*232. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the abnormal increase in prices of coffee which is causing considerable difficulty to the consumers;

(b) what are the reasons for such increase in prices and what steps Government have taken to check the rise in prices ;

(c) what is the estimated coffee consumption in tons per year in India ;

(d) what is the estimated coffee crop for 1951-52 ;

(e) what is the quantity reserved for export during 1951-52 ;

(f) who is the Director of Research of Coffee; and

(g) if there is no such Director at present since when the office has remained vacant ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Prices of coffee were on the increase from May to September 1952. During October and November, they have, however, come down by about Rs. 50 per cwt.

(b) Reasons for the increase in prices are growing internal consumption and keen competition among the merchants. With a view to bring down the prices, the Indian Coffee Board have revived in the major consuming centres of South India "Local auctions" for the benefit of the small retailers, hotels, roasters and canteens. In addition, larger quantities of coffee are being released in the internal market. Government have also cancelled the export quota of 2,000 tons of coffee originally allotted from the 1952-53 crop.

(c) About 18,500 tons during recent years.

(d) 21,000 tons.

(e) 2,200 tons.

(f) Shri K. M. Thomas.

(g) Does not arise.

MANUFACTURE OF WOODSCREWS

*233. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Guest Keen, Williams Ltd. have been given licence by Government to start a factory for the manufacture of wood-screws in India;

(b) if so, what are the authorised, subscribed and paid up capitals of the company ;

(c) the place where the factory would be located ;

(d) the names of the directors of the company ;