

and efficient plant. The decision to dismantle the plant was taken by the Ministry of Defence in consultation with the Director General of Ordnance Factories and his technical advisers.

(c) Yes, Sir ; the plant could not be used either economically or with safety.

(d) The old plant was replaced by two contact plants for the manufacture of oleum and sulphuric acid purchased from U. K. at a cost of less than Rs. 7 lakhs.

(e) No, Sir.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : How old was this plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I could not give the age of this plant ; but I can say that it was thoroughly examined both by our technical experts and by the Chemical Examiner of the Government of India, who came to the conclusion that the plant had outlived its utility and that it should be replaced.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN : Before this was dismantled may I know whether it was advertised for sale ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I do not know. I think it was in a very bad condition ; how it was disposed of I don't know.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : What was the cost of the original factory that had been established, the cost of this chamber process sulphuric acid plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : The plant was there for decades and it is very difficult today to give the cost of that plant, at the time when it was installed.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How much did Government realise from the disposal of this plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : As I said, I am not aware how it was disposed of.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : What was the written-down value of the plant ?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Pardon ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He asks, what was the written-down or book value of the plant.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I am not aware of the value. I can only say that the plant was very old. Probably according to the usual calculation system it might have had no book value at all.

#### HOUSING OF ARMY UNITS

\*272. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to make good the loss of permanent accommodation for Army units left behind in Pakistan ;

(b) whether Government propose to utilise any of the cantonments or other accommodation used by the former Indian States Forces for the purpose ; and

(c) whether Government propose to build new cantonments to meet the defence requirements ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a) A detailed survey of the entire permanent accommodation in this country of the pre-war Army as well as the accommodation taken over from the erstwhile States Forces is being carried out. The total accommodation is likely to be short of requirements and, therefore, projects have been initiated to make up the deficiency.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : May I know how many cantonments have been left behind in Pakistan ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : I could not tell the number of cantonments left behind, but they were quite considerable.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : How many units are now living under tents and temporary accommodation ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : I am afraid the question was not about the number of Army units, but about the housing of the units and about the housing problem ; but now the hon. Member is asking about the number of units. I have not got the information.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : I am only asking how many units or in how many places temporary accommodation is being utilised and the question of temporary accommodation is allied to the question of housing.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : I said a survey is being made and unless the survey is completed I could not give the information.

#### TINNED FOOD-STUFF

\*273. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any tinned food-stuffs are being imported from abroad for the use of the Indian Defence Services ; if so, what are the items of such food-stuffs that are being so imported; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to stop such imports and to provide the Defence forces with similar tinned food-stuffs manufactured in India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Tinned milk, skimmed milk powder, tinned cheese and hops are imported.

(b) The existing sources of the supply of fresh milk are already inadequate. A scheme is under consideration for setting up a milk powder factory with a cattle farm of its own. If this scheme materialises, it might be possible to obtain tinned cheese as a bye-product. The possibility of providing hops in India is being explored.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Are there no Indian factories which produce tinned milk or cheese ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : About cheese I am quite sure there are none and about tinned milk I am almost certain that possibly there is none.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Has any agreement been entered into with any foreign country for the supply of these things ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : No, there is no such agreement.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN: What is the total amount of these things that are being imported ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Giving it off-hand, Sir, I think it is about Rs. 57 lakhs so far as skimmed milk powder is concerned.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : May I know from what countries all these tinned items are being imported ?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : From the country which supplies us at the cheapest rate.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : From which country, Sir ? I am not asking about the rates.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA : Australia is one of them and Denmark, possibly, will be another one.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : How much milk powder is imported for Defence requirements ?