

Name of the foreign firm	Reason for rejection
3. M/s. Biro Pens Ltd., London. <i>Business.</i> —Manufacture of ball-pointed pens.	Besides foreign capital the proposal also involved payment of royalty which was not considered justified.
4. M/s. A.B. Fleming and Co. (Holding) Ltd., Edinburgh. <i>Business.</i> —Manufacture of printing inks and printing materials.	The particular variety of ink in the manufacture of which we are interested was not proposed to be produced in any large quantity. Besides, the proposal involved majority of foreign capital which was not justified in this case.
5. M/s. Theodor Goldschmidt Aktiengesellschaft and M/s. Elektro-Thermit Essen Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung of Western Germany. <i>Business.</i> —Thermit welding of railway joints, manufacture of welding portions, and other incidental equipment thereto and ferrous alloys.	As there are already some firms engaged in similar activities and two Railway systems have their own equipment for welding of joints association of foreign capital was not considered necessary.
6. M/s. L.D. Seymour and Co. of the U.S.A. <i>Business.</i> —Manufacture of tooth brush and fountain pen ink.	Investments of foreign capital in this line was not considered justified

PLYWOOD TRADE

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there has not been enough demand for plywood during the year 1952 from the tea companies for making tea chests ;

(b) whether any big tea estates are permitted to import foreign tea chests ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, what is the number and value of the tea chests imported ;

(d) whether plywood industry is now dependent to a considerable extent on furniture industry ;

(e) whether Government intend to stop the import of hard board which is used for making furniture in India ;

(f) whether hard board is imported under an Open General Licence ; and

(g) what steps Government intend to take to remove the depression in plywood trade ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is sufficient demand for tea chest plywood.

(b) Tea estates are permitted to import normally through their respective Associations a limited number of tea chests.

(c) It is not possible to give the information required, unless the 'big tea estates' are specified.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Government are not aware of any 'depression' in the plywood trade.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

3. SHRI M. P. N. SINHA : (a) Will the Minister for Planning be pleased to state how many villages are there in India according to the latest census ?

(b) What is the total number of males, females and children inhabiting those villages ?

(c) What is the total acreage of cultivable and non-cultivable land in India ?

(d) How many schemes of community projects have so far been introduced in the country ?

(e) What is the total area expected to be profited by these schemes ?

(f) What will be the total cost of these schemes, and how will such cost be met ?

THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING, IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) There are 557,989 villages in India according to the latest Census.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See Appendix III, Annexure No. I.)

(d), (e) and (f). Attention is invited to Articles, 1, 2 and 5 of Operational Agreement No. 8 on Community Development Programme under the Technical Cooperation Agreement, a copy of which was placed on the Table of the House in reply to the Starred Question No. 461 on the 4th June, 1952. [Placed in Library, see No. IVF41 (6).]

Statement

Rural Population

Persons	Males	Females
294,981,314	150,047,331	144,933,983

The above figures are exclusive of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

TITANIUM OXIDE FACTORY

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

(a) whether the Titanium Oxide Factory at Trivandrum has been closed down for an indefinite period ; if so, for what reasons ;

(b) whether the factory was the first of its kind in the East ;

(c) whether the factory used to produce non-toxic pigments which could replace lead and zinc paints ;

(d) whether the industry was subsidized by the Central Government ;

(e) what were the selling prices of the articles, manufactured by this factory and of those imported ; and

(f) whether Government propose to take any action to revive the industry ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) No, Sir. The factory has been closed only temporarily and placed on a care and maintenance basis, till modifications to the plant for producing rutile pigment are completed and additional finances are harnessed for undertaking production of this grade of pigment.

(b) It is the first of its kind in India.

(c) Yes, Sir. There are, however, certain limitations to the use of this pigment to replace completely white lead and zinc pigments.

(d) No, Sir

(e) The average price of imported pigment in July/December 1951 was Rs. 314 per cwt. and in January/June 1952, Rs. 214 per cwt. The indigenous product was first marketed in October 1951 at Rs. 195 per cwt. and this has been successively reduced to Rs. 175 per cwt. in February 1952 and then to Rs. 140 per cwt. in June 1952. On account of the present easy supply position in the world market, the price of imported pigment is about Rs. 124 per cwt. from U. K. and Rs. 139 per cwt. from Germany, but no imports at this price have been allowed in the second half of this year.

(f) The question of assisting the industry in different ways has been examined and action has been taken on the following lines :—

(1) to create additional demand and displace zinc and lead pigments,