

the import quota fixed is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 5.]

(b) The main sources of supply are Ceylon and Singapore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) *Approximate annual Requirements:*

Copra—245,000 tons.

Coconut oil—150,000 tons.

(ii) *Annual production:*

Copra—215,000 tons.

Coconut oil—107,000 tons.

Shri V. P. Nayar rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We had a half-hour discussion over this matter the other day. I will allow two or three questions.

Shri Achuthan: May I know, Sir, whether Government has taken into consideration the fact of the stock position by the end of 1952 when this new import policy was adumbrated?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether the Government Consult the Central Coconut Committee regarding this import policy?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was already discussed in the half-an-hour discussion.

Shri Karmarkar: I will draw the hon. Member's attention to the reply given in the half-an-hour discussion.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government intend to give preferential treatment to Indonesia as is given to Ceylon and other countries in this matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Preferential treatment is perhaps in respect of duty, and naturally Indonesia does not come within the scope of preferential duties. But it is possible, if Indonesia should come in, that the prices may work out more favourably than for Ceylon because Ceylon imposes an export duty while Indonesia may or may not.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, may I know whether the quantity of coconut oil required for purposes of consumption here are estimated on the basis of requirements for soap manufacture, especially for the export of soap?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The other day I had answered that roughly

about 12½ per cent. of the total consumption is supposed to be for soap manufacture. Since the export of soap forms microscopic portion of the total production and it is doubtful whether coconut oil is used for the manufacture of soap for export, this question cannot be answered.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF SMALL INDUSTRIES

***1130. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state what machinery is being proposed for the enforcement of Government decision to encourage small industries through State purchase as recommended by the Planning Commission?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): A post of Officer on Special duty (Cottage Industry) in the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals has been created. The Officer will work as a Liaison Officer between the Directors of Supply, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Cottage Industries Directorate) and the Planning Commission. He will also be charged with the responsibility of determining, in consultation with the Inspection Wing of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals and the Cottage Industries Directorate, what new items of supply can be purchased from cottage industries. The post will be filled shortly.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Are the State Governments also being instructed in the matter to make purchases through this officer?

Shri Buragohain: The State Governments make their own purchases. It is not necessary for them to come to the Central Purchase Organisation and they have certainly got the Planning Commission's report before them and they can take whatever steps they want.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

***1132. Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what the procedure of appointment of information officers in the Press Information Bureau is?

(b) How many information officers are there in the Bureau?

(c) What is being done to achieve economy in the organisation?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) The appointment is made through the Union Public Service Commission.

(b) There are 16 posts of which one is vacant at present.

(c) The need for economy, consistently with efficiency, is constantly kept in view and the requirements of the organisation are reviewed from time to time and economies effected wherever possible.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know, Sir, how many officers were there in 1951 and 1952?

Dr. Keskar: I will not be able to say off-hand how many were functioning in 1951-52; but the number of substantive posts has been the same.

Shri Nanadas: May I know how many of them are Scheduled Castes?

Dr. Keskar: I will require notice.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Government propose to appoint a Scheduled Caste man to the present vacancy?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is too much to ask.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Has there been any case of direct recruitment, Sir?

Dr. Keskar: Sir, as I said, the recruitment is done through the Union Public Service Commission. There has been one appointment; I would not call it direct recruitment—recruitment done with the consent of the Public Service Commission but probably not going through all the procedure that is ordinarily gone through.

Shri Namblar: May I know whether the Government have decided not to give the chance to a Scheduled Caste member, because that point is not clear?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a Scheduled Caste in every case, even without notice. This is rather difficult.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know what is the expense that Government have to incur on this bureau?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is given in the Budget estimates. Whatever is available elsewhere ought not to be asked.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know the number of Information Officers who are engaged in Hindi work in this office?

Dr. Keskar: There is only one Information Officer for Hindi at present.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी: यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विभाग के भ्रतगत जो विदेशों में नियुक्तियाँ होती हैं वे ऐक्सटर्नल विभाग से होती हैं या सूचना विभाग से होती हैं ?

डा० केशकर: इस विभाग से विदेश के लिये कोई नियुक्ति नहीं होती है। वह विभाग बिल्कुल अलग है और वह ऐक्सटर्नल मिनिस्ट्री में है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will now call those hon. Members who were absent.
Q. No. 1117.

INDIANS IN SURINAM

*1117. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India have information as to whether the Indians in Surinam get all facilities from the Dutch authorities to freely visit India and go back?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The Government of India are not aware of Indians settled in Surinam suffering from any disability in connection with their visits to India and return back to that country.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know the number of Indians in Surinam and what is the number that has visited India during 1951 to 1953?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: So far as we know, the population of Dutch West Indies is about 1,65,000 of whom about one-third are of Indian origin and I am not aware of the number who visited India during the last year.

INDIAN TECHNICIANS UNDER INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

*1119. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian technicians receiving industrial training in the U.K. and the U.S.A.;

(b) whether such trainees have regular access to plants and factories; and

(c) whether any Indian technicians are being trained in the U.K. and the U.S.A. in penicillin plants?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) The information required is not.