

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Do the activities of the Board affect the colliery owners?

Shri R. G. Dubey: No.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Are the activities of the Board being extended or are likely to be extended in any other direction regarding advice on washing coals, refinement and betterment of coal and if so whether changes are being proposed in the constitution of the Board or of the bodies working under it?

Shri R. G. Dubey: For the present no changes are contemplated. The Advisory Committees have to be formally regulated. For the present, certain committees are there which are functioning, informally. Under section 15 of the Coal Mines Conservation Act, there is provision for setting up advisory committees. They will have three functions: technical advice on mining, stowing and research work.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Government say that the activities of the Board do not affect the colliery owners at all?

Shri R. G. Dubey: No; not to my knowledge.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Does not the Coal Board deal with coal?

Shri R. G. Dubey: I mean, not judicially.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know if the interests of the Indian owned collieries are represented in any way and if so in what numbers?

Shri R. G. Dubey: As I said just now, so far as the Advisory Committee is concerned, in this Stowing Advisory Committee the coal industry including the Indian Colliery owners' Association is represented.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

*1861. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which Government fix the prices for their publications; and

(b) whether they can be made cheaper so that a greater number of people may be able to purchase them?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) The cost of produc-

tion plus 60 per cent. for incidental expenses, which does not include any element of profit, is taken as the basis for fixing the price of a publication.

(b) Under the rules, the price can be fixed at a lower figure, when there are strong public grounds for doing so.

Shri Madiah Gowda: May I know whether it is not a fact that a large number of publications are, on account of their being costly, not being sold, and hence had to be destroyed?

Shri Buragohain: I am not aware of any such thing. If the hon. Member has got any information, and if he passes that on to me, I will enquire.

Shri Madiah Gowda: May I also know whether the publications such as the Five-year Plan and the Constitution of India, etc., which are required to be read widely by the people will be made very cheap so that all people may be able to purchase them?

Shri Buragohain: That is a suggestion for action. Obviously, there is interdependence between the number of copies to be printed and their likely sale and the price. The larger the number, the lesser the cost.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the Minister aware that there are a number of applicants who are not able to get a copy of the Five-year Plan?

Shri Buragohain: I should like to have notice in regard to any particular publication.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it the intention of the Government to reduce the price of the Five-year Plan for popularising the publication?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question was already put and the hon. Minister said it was a suggestion for action. Next question.

IMPORT OF WATCHES, FOUNTAIN-PENS AND SPECTACLES

*1862. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of dollars consumed in the import of watches, fountain-pens and spectacles from the hard currency areas in 1952-53; and

(b) the scope for restriction in the import from these areas in the general interests of dollar conservation by importing from other areas?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Current import policy does not allow import of watches, fountain pens, and spectacle frames from dollar areas. Import of lenses only is allowed from these areas on 20 per cent. quota basis to Established Importers.

STATEMENT

Value of imports from Dollar areas during 1952 and 1953 (Jan-Feb.)

Item	Jan.-December 1952	Jan. Feb 1953
	Rs.	Rs.
Watches	36,000	5,000
Fountain pen	25,000	2,000
Spectacles	(Separate figures are not available)	

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether these watches, fountain pens, and other articles, which are necessary articles are imported in border areas at considerably lower cost than in our country, with the result that persons bring or smuggle these watches and pens at considerably lower prices in India? Have Government considered any proposal to check this?

Shri Karmarkar: Government are aware that smugglers are able to smuggle goods at cheaper prices. They are doing their best to check this.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know what steps will be taken to lower the price so that these articles may be available in this country as they are available in other countries?

Shri Karmarkar: Still smugglers will continue to smuggle at still lower prices.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What steps have been taken by the Government?

Shri Karmarkar: All possible steps.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question 1864.

An hon. Member: 1863, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That has been transferred to 14th May to be answered by the Minister of Food and Agriculture.

EMPORIA FOR HANDLOOM PRODUCTS

*1864. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the scheme to open emporia in foreign countries for marketing Indian handloom products has materialised?

(b) What is the function of the Handloom Directorate organised in this connection?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, the All-India Handloom Board has sanctioned a scheme for the opening of emporia in some countries of the Middle East and South East Asia for the marketing of Indian handloom products.

(b) The Handloom Directorate has been organised in order to assist the schemes for the development of the handloom industry working in collaboration with State Governments. Such schemes will also assist in the promotion of export markets.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know what are those countries where these emporia have been opened? May I also know how far these schemes will help the present position of the handloom industry in our country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The present suggestion is that emporia should be opened at Singapore, Colombo, Bangkok, Rangoon, Chittagong, Karachi and Aden. In regard to how far these will assist, I cannot say the extent to which assistance will be there. This is partly to do propaganda and partly to make the handloom products available to the people and thereby popularise handloom products. In all matters we just hope for the best.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether there is any machinery by which we can understand how far this attempt has been proving a success? Are we expecting any reports?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Things are just in the stage of formulation. Once they are put into practice, then there will be an objective study to evaluate the results. It is premature to evaluate the possible results at the moment.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is the estimated cost of running an emporium?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Actually, these costs have not yet been worked out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri K. K. Basu: One question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already called the next question.