

Shri Karmarkar: Because there is no anxiety that any internal supply will be affected.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know how many varieties of castor oil are there?

Shri Karmarkar: Government are aware of only one variety of castor oil.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question. Hon. Members must get up in their seats if they are anxious to put the question. Otherwise, I will pass on to the next question.

Shri Rishang Keishing: No. 1964.

FOREST RESERVATION IN N.E.F. AGENCY

*1964. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any forest reservation in the North East Frontier Agency;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any compensation is paid to the owners of such land now under the Forest Department; and

(c) whether any benefit or income derived from the Forest reserved by Government is in any way shared with the villagers in the forest areas?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):

(a) Preliminary notifications have been issued in respect of 13 forests proposed to be constituted as reserves. Final notification awaits disposal of settlement proceedings.

(b) and (c). Two forests belonging to the Chiefs of Namsang and Borduria in the Tirap Frontier Tract, are being administered by the North-East Frontier Agency Forest Department according to the terms of an agreement under which the net proceeds are shared between Government and the respective Chiefs. The Chiefs are required, under the terms of the agreement, to spend a portion of their share of revenue for the welfare of the tribal people.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know how many tribal villages are there nearabout and within the forest reservation area and may I know also whether any special facilities for cultivation, house sites, collection of building materials and safeguards against forced labour are provided to these people?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: I should like to have notice.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Under what conditions are the services of the tribal people nearabout or within the forest reservation areas generally acquired?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question does not relate to that. The question is about Forest reservation in N.E.F. Agency. Are we to go into the conditions of service, employment, etc.? No. I shall proceed to the next question if the hon. Member has no more questions.

Shri Rishang Keishing: In the forest reservation area and the nearabout neighbouring villages, services of the tribal people are required and under the British rule, they used to be forcibly acquired.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should the hon. Member presume that it is forced labour?

Shri Rishang Keishing: I want to know whether any such system prevails.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That does not arise out of the question.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We have made every effort to put an end to that system. I cannot say absolutely that in any corner of these forest areas, it does occasionally occur. But, it is Government's policy to discourage it by all means.

PRIORITIES FOR ITEMS OF IMPORT

*1966. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the order of priorities drawn up for import of various categories of goods from foreign countries for the year 1953?

(b) What was the order of priorities followed during the year 1952?

(c) Did the order of priorities drawn up, apply equally to Government purchases as well as to imports on private account?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The order of priority generally observed in determining the import policy is as follows:—

- (1) (i) Raw materials for essential industries.
- (ii) Spare parts and accessories and Capital goods for replacement and maintenance of essential industries.
- (iii) Consumer goods essential for the life and health of the community.