

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it true that the Government of Pakistan had made certain counter-charges against India to the Inter-sessional Committee of the G.A.T.T.?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is true, Sir, that they pointed out the fact that we are levying a surcharge on coal as being discriminatory.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether our charges against Pakistan and the Pakistani counter-charges are being considered by the Committee and are treated on an equal footing?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I have said, Sir, the Chairman of the Inter-sessional Committee has made certain suggestions. His suggestions are before the Governments of Pakistan and India. It is expected some discussion will ensue.

Shri Kelappan: Is it a fact that the Pakistan Government have decided not to import jute manufactures from India and they would rather prefer doing without Indian manufactures?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think, Sir, there is any definite basis for this. It is a fact that Pakistan are establishing their own jute mills. Perhaps they expect to become self-sufficient.

DISPUTED ISLAND VILLAGES ON GOPALPARA-RANGPUR BORDER.

*322. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the joint survey of the disputed island villages along the Gopalpara-Rangpur border has been made as was agreed to at the 26th conference of the Chief Secretaries of West Bengal, East Bengal, Assam and Tripura in November, 1952?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Yes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, how long it would take to make a survey of these villages?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: As I have said, Sir, the survey has been completed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: On what basis do Government expect to get these villages exchanged by the Government of Pakistan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I do not quite understand the question, Sir. It is a question of the survey of this area and the survey has been completed recently. We have not yet got the report.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the purpose of that survey?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a contested piece of area. Some small islands in the river Brahmaputra, we claim that they belong to us and they say that they belong to them. A joint survey has been completed. We have not yet received the final report.

Shri Beli Ram Das: In whose possession are the islands at present?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawahar-Nehru): There are a number of small islands and normally speaking nobody lives on them. That is why disputes arise. We have not received the full report yet. We have only been informed that the survey has been completed. The report will come presently.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether there is an agreement as a result of this survey or are there still differences between the parties?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as we know, the survey has been completed by both parties working together. I cannot precisely say that there is complete agreement but the presumption is that it has been an agreed survey.

INDO-AUSTRIAN TRADE AGREEMENT

*323. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indo-Austrian Trade Agreement was recently signed between India and Austria;

(b) if so, since when that Agreement has come into force; and

(c) what are the chief terms of that Agreement?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1st July 1952.

(c) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the copies of the trade agreement placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, the trade position between India and Austria since this agreement came into force?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to exports and imports, Sir, I would like to have notice.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, whether there is export of coir mats in this agreement?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir, coir yarn forms part of the agreement.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether under this agreement any capital goods are going to be imported from Austria?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The agreement does not prevent, Sir, the import of capital goods from Austria.

Shri A. V. Thomas: Is tea one of the items?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question, No. 324.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Question No. 330 dealing with matches may also be taken along with this, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, these two may be answered together.

[MATCH FACTORIES

*324. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian-owned and foreign-owned match factories in India—State by State—in 1950, 1951 and 1952;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian-owned factories of unfair competition from foreign-owned match factories; and

(c) whether there is any control over the production of these factories?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 9]

(b) Some smaller units had represented last October that they are unable to compete with larger mechanised units.

(c) There is no statutory control.

MATCH FACTORIES

*330. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Match Manufacturing factories in India, as on the 1st January, 1953:

(b) the number of match factories in which the Western India Match Company (WIMCO) has investments, together with the names of such factories;

(c) the total capital invested by WIMCO in Indian Match Industry and the percentage of such capital in the overall investment in the Industry till the 1st January, 1953; and

(d) the number and names of Match Factories if any, which closed down in India from the 15th August 1947 to the 1st January, 1953, and the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) 147.

(b) Messrs. Western India Match Co. Ltd., have invested in the following five match factories in India:—

(1) M/s. Western India Match Co. Ltd., Ambarnath, Bombay.

(2) M/s. Western India Match Co. Ltd., Washermanpet, Madras.

(3) M/s. Western India Match Co. Ltd., Clutterbuckganj, Bareilly, U.P.

(4) M/s. Western India Match Co. Ltd., Alembazar, P. O. 24, Parganas, West Bengal.

(5) M/s. Assam Match Co. Ltd., Dhubri, Assam.

(c) Precise information is not available.

(d) Many small factories have closed down owing to uneconomic production or poor finances. Government have no definite information regarding their exact number or names. 66 new factories have come into existence.

Shri A. C. Guha: From the statement laid on the Table I find that the number of Indian companies has come down from 198 to 142. May I know how the production of the existing companies has been affected?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Production has gone up, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, what percentage of matches produced in India is produced on the basis of cottage industry and what is the percentage produced in mechanised factories?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: 430,770 cases, each of 50 gross boxes in 1952 were produced by Wimco; the others produced 176,902 cases.