

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.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister that the smaller companies cannot compete with mechanised factories, has the Government any idea of putting some control over production as has been done in the case of electric bulbs?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether Government have taken any steps to encourage and develop the cottage match industry, as contemplated in the Five Year Plan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. The cottage industry gets a definite benefit in regard to excise duty. The smaller the factory the greater the benefit. In regard to provision of supplies like refined sulphur Government treat these cottage industry units as their special concern.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May we know whether one of the raw materials in the production of matches, match wax, is indigenously provided or is it still in the world pool and also what is the quantity that we have to take from the outside world?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not aware, Sir, whether there has been any world pool in regard to supplies of raw materials needed, unless it be sulphur. In regard to the latter part of the question, I would like to have notice.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government are aware that the restrictions on the export of soft wood having been removed in the Travancore-Cochin State, the Travancore-Cochin match factories had to be closed down because Wimco's are able to purchase, with all their huge capital behind them, all the soft wood?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice, Sir.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: At this stage, I would like to submit to hon. Members one point for consideration. I find that in the House of Commons as many as forty to fifty questions are answered every day and only two supplementaries are allowed on each question. I find that we here are not able to do more than ten or twelve questions at the most per day, with the result that the other questions are all blocked. We concentrate upon individual questions not knowing that there are many other questions of equal importance which are blocked. Under those circumstances, I would like hon. Members to consider whether supplementary questions may not be restricted

to between three and five. I am not adopting this practice immediately. Hon. Members will kindly consider this matter and try to adopt this procedure from Monday onwards.

Taking this question for instance, it seeks to elicit information about the number of Indian-owned and foreign-owned match factories in India, the names of such match factories, etc. I feel that such questions need not be answered on the floor of the House. A statement may be laid on the Table by the hon. Minister and if any further questions arise they may be asked later on. That will save the time of the House. I would also like to urge upon hon. Ministers that whenever statements are laid on the Table of the House, in answer to questions, they may be as complete as possible.

Very often I find that questions relating to details are asked on the floor of the House. Hon. Ministers may not have information regarding details at the tip of their fingers. Therefore, in such cases there is nothing to prevent hon. Members from writing to the hon. Ministers and getting the information. I am sure that hon. Ministers will be only too willing to give as much information as possible to hon. Members. If this practice is adopted a number of important questions will not be blocked. I realise it is not possible for hon. Members to adjust themselves to this procedure in one day; so, let us start this procedure from Monday next.

Shri V. P. Nayar: There is one reason for our asking more supplementaries. We find that very often the answers given by hon. Ministers are very evasive.....

Shri K. K. Basu: Also provocative.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Provocation breeds provocation. I do not know from which quarter it starts. Possibly it starts from the questions. It is no good using such language.

And again, I will allow only such supplementaries as can possibly be anticipated and arise out of the questions. Very often I find that some information is kept in the pocket and sprung upon the Ministers.

In these circumstances, I will only allow two or three supplementaries and at the most five in very important matters, and only such questions as arise out of the ones tabled. If we work on that basis we will be able to do a good number of the questions which are now blocked. I have now restricted the number of questions which are printed to thirty-

five. Even that we are not able to do.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the hon. Member who has tabled the question get any preference in the matter of supplementary questions?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Of course he will be given preference. I shall try to distribute the supplementaries to others as well.

Shri Kelappan: Will it be possible to give us written answers to the questions tabled beforehand so that Question-hour may be devoted to supplementary questions?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That matter was considered a number of times and it was decided that the importance of the Question-hour would disappear if printed answers are distributed beforehand.

Shri A. C. Guha: I would like to ask one supplementary on this question. The hon. Minister stated that the Government have no intention of taking any steps to restrict the production of bigger companies. May I know whether Government has got any plan to save the smaller cottage factories?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is one important factor to be considered in this connection. Hon. Members apparently lose sight of the fact that these match factories serve a purpose: that is they serve the purpose of the consumers. If it is the intention of Parliament that the consumer must be sacrificed at the altar of the smaller match factories, well Parliament can indicate their view and Government will follow it up.

The point really is we want to synthesise between the claims of the smaller factories and the claims of the consumer to the extent we can. If we ban the bigger factories, the consumer will have to pay the price.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to say a word in regard to the completeness of the answers provided. Between questions 324 and 330 I have got eighteen pages of notes here. If any supplementary is asked outside the material I have, I must naturally want notice.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Before we go on to the next question, I would like to point out that my question was in regard to match wax; but the hon. Minister directed us to sulphur. I had only asked a straightforward question as to whether one of the raw materials for the production of matches in this country was made indigenously.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise out of these two questions?

Shri Jaipal Singh: The question of control comes in.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Control means composition—is it?

The first question is about the Indian-owned and foreign-owned companies. So what exactly are the components and whether they are indigenously produced or imported, do not arise out of this question.

Then Question No. 330 relates to the number of match manufacturing factories; the number of match factories in which the Western India Match Company have investment; the total capital; the names of match factories, etc. I cannot imagine, how this question arises?

Shri Jaipal Singh: There is the word "unfair".

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I help to cut the discussion short. The question asked was about a pool in regard to match wax. I said the pool referred to sulphur which is now controlled by the International Scarce Materials Conference and we supply refined sulphur which is not controlled by the International Conference to the same extent. I said no other article is in the pool—that was my answer.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Do I understand that the match wax produced by the Digboi Oil Company in Assam is not in the international pool?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid we are straying far beyond the question. Next question.

INTERNATIONAL COTTON CONFERENCE BOMBAY

*325. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which were represented at the International Cotton Conference in Bombay on 2nd January, 1953; and

(b) what were the decisions taken and what will be their repercussions on our textile industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). There was no such International Cotton Conference at Bombay on the 2nd January, 1953.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was any such Conference held in January here in