

ment of India with some tea traders in the U.S.A. were done exclusively for the purpose of making propaganda about Indian tea in the U.S.A.

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir. That is not a fact.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know when this new arrangement mentioned by the Minister began?

Shri Karmarkar: I could give him the date, but it is some time recently.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is the Government considering sending a goodwill mission to the U.S.A. for the purpose of popularising Indian tea?

Shri Karmarkar: The goodwill is already there. There is no need of sending any goodwill mission.

Shri T. K. Chaudhury: May I know if any arrangement has been made to popularise Indian tea in the Middle Eastern countries where flavour is not so much required, and where the common variety of Indian tea has a very good potential market?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall have the matter considered.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: With regard to answer (b), may I know which are these other countries?

Shri Karmarkar: The countries where we have been trying to do propaganda recently are Germany, Holland, U.K., Eire and Switzerland, with varying success in different periods.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether any private organizations interested in tea trade are doing propaganda on behalf of Indian tea, and if so, whether the Government is giving them any financial assistance?

Shri Karmarkar: I do not think we are giving any financial assistance. Any private organization is welcome and free to do any good propaganda that it likes.

Shri Barman: May I know, Sir, what arrangements have been made

and by which agency for the purpose of propaganda in the continent of Europe, after the withdrawal from the International Tea Board?

Shri Karmarkar: I am sorry the hon. Member did not follow my reply. I said: "The Tea Council of the U.S.A. of which India, Ceylon and Indonesia are members, undertakes propaganda for popularising tea generally." That is with regard to the U.S.A. With regard to other countries, as I said, we are proceeding to organize tea propaganda generally.

IMPORT OF FOREIGN LIQUOR

*366. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the exact policy of Government in the matter of issuing licences for the import of foreign liquor for potable purposes?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Licences are granted to established importers only for the imports of:—

1. Ale, beer, porter, cider and other fermented liquors;
2. Wines;
3. Brandy, gin and whisky;
4. Spirits excluding essences containing spirits; and
5. Bitters separately for each of the above varieties, on the basis of 40 per cent. of half of their previous highest imports. Imports of Rum are not allowed. Licences so issued can be utilised for import of any or all of the above articles provided that imports of Ale and Beer do not exceed in value 1/3rd of the total value of the licences held by any importer

Shri Dabhi: May I know the quantity and value of liquor imported into India during the years 1950-51 to 1952-53?

Shri Karmarkar: I could give my hon. friend the value of the total liquor imported. During 1950-51,

it was Rs. 1,12,81,553. During 1951-52, it was Rs. 1,52,73,223/-. During 1952-53, it was Rs. 1,52,81,080/-.

Shri Dabhi: May I know if the continuance of the import of liquor is in consonance with the principle of prohibition embodied in Article 47 of our Constitution?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Kelappan: From which countries are these liquors imported?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri Gadgil: Do these figures include the import of liquor from Goa?

Shri Karmarkar: Imported or smuggled?

Shri Gadgil: For smuggled, of course, if you have the figures, I would like to have them.

Shri Karmarkar: This includes liquor imported from all places.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any records are kept, and whether the Government are in a position to state the names of the States where these are being consumed?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have information regarding the hon. Member's State, but we have no information in our records statewide.

सैठ गोविन्द दास : यह इतनी शराब बाहर से क्यों मंगाई जाती है और इसमें से कितनी का उपयोग हमारी सैक्रेटेरियेट और इस तरह की दूसरी संस्थाओं में होता है ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know how much the secretariat consumes?

Seth Govind Das: I asked what is the use of all this wine which is imported in India, and how much of it is being used in different secretariats?

Shri Karmarkar: I think the hon. Member is himself aware of its use. The wines are drunk. As regards

the secretariats and how much they consume, we do not keep any separate accounts for them.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): Nobody can drink in the secretariat. They drink at home.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even indirectly the secretariat is not here to justify itself. Any officer who is drunk in the secretariat is not entitled and is not competent to remain there; he will be disqualified. He may drink at night, but as for who drinks at night, God alone knows.

I would only suggest to hon. Members that questions of this sort do not help anybody. It is not right also indirectly to cast aspersions and say that some people in the secretariat are drinking.

Seth Govind Das: I only wanted to know how much of it is used for entertainment and things like that. I shall withdraw the question, if you like, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would suggest to the hon. Member to withdraw that question.

श्री घुलेकर : क्या सरकार ने इस बात पर विचार किया है कि अच्छी शराबें जो बाहर से आती हैं उन को बनाने के लिये हिन्दुस्तान में ही तैयारी की जाय ?

श्री करमरकर : कई चीजों के बारे में तैयारी की जाती है ।

Shri C. D. Pande: He is saying about quality drinks.

Shri Karmarkar: I am not competent to talk about that.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या सरकार कोशिश करेगी कि शराब के स्थान पर सोमरस का प्रयोग हो ?

Shri Dabhi: May I know the classes of people who mostly consume foreign liquor?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Kinds of people who consume it? Next question.

SITE FOR STEEL PLANT

*367. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the site for the Steel Plant to be established under the Five Year Plan had been decided upon?

(b) If so, what steps have so far been taken and what progress has so far been made in this direction?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No final decision regarding the site has been taken.

(b) It is assumed that the hon. Member wants to know the steps that have so far been taken and the progress made in respect of starting a new steel plant in India and its location. A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 30.]

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the different places which were recommended?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Several places have been recommended on several occasions by various committees. I might mention a few of them. For instance, in Bihar, Sindri has been recommended; originally Monghyr had been recommended; in Orissa, two sites have been recommended, Hirakud and Rourkela; in Madhya Pradesh, Bhilai has been recommended.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the reason for this extraordinary delay?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There has been no avoidable delay. This is a very complicated question, especially in view of the fact that a plant of such a magnitude has not been so far tried in this country. Various technical questions have got to be taken into account, before a final decision is taken. Moreover, the starting of a plant of this nature requires technical and foreign assistance and participation. Their recommendation also is necessary, before a final decision is taken in regard to the choice of the site.

Shri Mohiuddin: May I know whether in view of the fact that high quality ore is found in Bastar, the location of the factory there is also under consideration?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am afraid it is not under consideration.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it a fact that in Salem district, it is estimated to have about 375 million tons of iron ore, which meet India's needs for about 200 years? Is there any proposal to locate any factory in Salem or nearabout Salem district?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Unfortunately there is no suitable coal there.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether these recommendations came from the State Governments or from the experts who were appointed by the Central Government?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The State Governments also have put in their representations. Each State Government has very strongly recommended that a particular site in their State is the most suitable. At the same time, certain technical committees also have gone into this question. They have also made their recommendations.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that a representation in this respect has been made by the Madhya Pradesh Government, in which it has been proved that as far as iron ore is concerned, Madhya Pradesh would be the best site for the location of this factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Regarding the first part of the hon. Member's question, the answer is in the affirmative. Regarding the second part, I cannot commit myself definitely.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know what was the recommendation of the expert committee that was appointed some three or four months ago?

Shri K. C. Reddy: They have been unable to make any definite and final recommendation. They have stated.

"A definite recommendation cannot be made regarding the location