

me it should be addressed to the proper quarter.

RESIN INDUSTRY IN PUNJAB

*486. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government have received any report with regard to the failure of the resin industry in the Punjab financially?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I presume the hon. Member is referring to the Rosin industry. The answer is in the negative.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, whether after the Partition the resin industry which is a subsidiary industry for the Punjab has declined very much and it has led to unemployment? May I also know what steps are taken to put it on a proper footing so that there should be less of unemployment in that sector?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The presumption on which the question is based, so far as the knowledge of the Minister of Commerce and Industry goes, has no bearing in fact.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has not received any complaint from the Punjab Government in the above connection.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that the Punjab is very rich in forest wealth, any steps have been taken to put this industry on a sound basis?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister says he has not received any complaint.

DELEGATION TO NORTH BORNEO

*487. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have selected the personnel of the delegation proposed to be sent to North Borneo with a view to making a study of conditions and assessing the prospects of successful settlement of Indians there?

(b) When is the proposed delegation likely to leave India for North Borneo?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The members of the proposed delegation were selected some time ago, but we are still waiting for a reply from the Government of North Borneo, before the delegation can proceed.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the categories of Indians who will be permitted to go to and settle in North Borneo at present? Or are we to understand that no Indian will be permitted to go and settle there, until and unless there is an agreement between our Government and North Borneo Government on this question?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The question is a bit premature. It was arranged, as I have said once before in the last session, that we would send a delegation to make enquiries on the spot and report to the Government and then alone the question of immigration will be settled.

Shri Dabhi: Sir, I wanted to ask whether at present any Indians could be allowed to go and settle there.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): If I may answer that question, not only chances do not exist at present but they are remote in future also for Indians to go and settle there.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the names of those who are selected for the delegation?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It was proposed to compose the delegation with these persons:—

Officials: 1. Mr. M. Gopala Menon, I.F.S., representative of the Government in Malaya and Singapore.

2. Thakur Kehar Singh, P.C.S., Himachal Pradesh.

Non-Official: Mr. V. E. Andrews of Travancore-Cochin Union.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it not a fact that certain Indian citizens who are qualified in railway and telegraphic technology are being invited by the Borneo Government and some of them have already left?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know in view of what the hon. Prime Minister has said, why this delegation is being at all sponsored and sent?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: After what I have said earlier, it now transpires that we have arranged it and now we are waiting for a reply from the other end. It is not forthcoming. So far as we can make out, they do not want this delegation or any of the Indians to go over there. There has been pressure from various elements in the island of Borneo against this delegation.

HAND POUNDING OF RICE

*488. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has, in the Five Year Plan, recommended that in the interest of rural employment and in order to ensure better nutrition, Government should formulate a programme for replacing the huller type of rice mills by hand-pounding of rice; and

(b) if so, the actual steps Government have taken, or are going to take, in the said matter?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) Any action that could be taken in regard to this matter falls within the competence of the State Governments. However, a scheme, costing Rs. 4 lakhs, has been sanctioned for execution by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board for the purchase of improved equipment, to be sold to the hand-pounding rice co-operative societies at 50 per cent. of cost, and to give subsidies to those societies to help them to avoid losses

in the initial period of working. The Board has also made proposals for replacing the huller type of machine with a different type and the levy of a cess on mill pounded rice to help the hand-pounding industry and other allied matters. These are under consideration by the Government.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that a Resolution passed by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board has demanded that there should be an immediate ban on the huller type of rice pounding, and that there should be no further increase in the number and capacity of huller mills, and if so, whether Government have acceded or are going to accede to this demand?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The answer is provided in the last sentence of my reply. This and other matters are under consideration. And I have also said it is not a question of the Government of India acceding to their demand. The matter falls within the competence of the State Governments, and anything that can be done to progress the wishes of the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board can only be done by negotiation with the State Governments.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the attitude of the Government regarding acceptance or non-acceptance of the recommendations of the Planning Commission as well as the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is very difficult to make an affirmation of faith in a matter in which Government is not completely seized of the consequences of its action.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that in the last Railway Centenary Exhibition, one Mr. Ghatak of Chandernagore exhibited a hand-pounding machine to the hon. Minister or the Minister of State? If so, what is the reaction, and have the West Bengal Government been informed about it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Maybe a fact. So far as I am concerned, I never visited the Railway Exhibition.