

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.

and I am completely ignorant of the existence of any such machine.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Nor was I shown that machine.

Seth Govind Das: The hon. Minister has just stated that as far as this matter is concerned, it is the State Governments who are responsible. May I know if any negotiations in this respect are going on with the State Governments?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member is a very old Member of this House and its predecessors, and he knows that there is no finality in these negotiations. The negotiations are constant and continuous, and often-times we do not see the result for a long time.

Seth Govind Das: May I know, Sir, how long these negotiations have been going on, and by what time any result is expected of these negotiations?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: These negotiations have been going on for long before I took charge, and I hope they will go on even after I leave!

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, whether Government is prepared to extend this policy to other suitable sectors of industry such as mustard oil etc.?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it hand-pounded?

Mr. M. M. Das: By *ghani* and mills. It is similar.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not proceed from one subject to another.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In Travancore-Cochin, for example, although licence fees were collected for starting several rice mills there, sanction was not accorded, and several prosecutions are now pending for illegal possession of rice mills. Was it in accordance with the policy of the Central Government that this sanction was not given for starting these mills and these prosecutions have been launched?

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

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know, Sir, whether Government really believes in the efficacy of the recommendations of the Planning Commission to replace the hullers by hand-pounding?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member wants an opinion from me, I don't think I am competent to give an opinion. The fact that a responsible body has made a recommendation and the Government have the matter under consideration and are negotiating with the State Governments is sufficient proof that there is something in what this body has suggested and the Government are taking this body's recommendations seriously. What the results would be is a different question altogether.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to state the number of mills that are working, and the quantity of rice produced, and the number of persons employed in these mills?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think that question had better be addressed to my hon. colleague the Minister for Food and Agriculture. He knows more about rice than I do.

Shri Punnoose: Are Government aware that in Travancore-Cochin the Government have banned the opening of these mills and also launched some prosecutions against those who have offended the law, as a result of public agitation and due to increasing unemployment in the rural areas?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would take the information from the hon. Member.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that there is a feeling among the Members of the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board that Government are not helping the Board to the extent to which they ought to help it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If my hon. friend wants me to accept the view that he has in mind, I should say certainly not. On the other hand, we are trying our best to implement the wishes of this Board to the extent that is possible.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Have permits been granted to import the huller type of mills in 1952-53? If so, how much worth of machinery has been imported?

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

PRE-WAR CLAIMS ON JAPAN

***489. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many claims and for what amount have been made by the Indian nationals against the Japanese Government for loss or damage to property or personal injury or death which arose before the outbreak of War with Japan?

(b) How do Government propose to help the claimants in settling their claims

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 254 claims have come to our notice so far. The total amount involved in these claims is Rs. 14,16,000.

(b) The claimants have been informed by press notes that their claims with necessary documentary evidence should be submitted to the Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay, by the 31st December, 1953. Thereafter, the claims with connected papers will be submitted to the Japanese Government in terms of Article 8(a) of the Indo-Japanese Peace Treaty for consideration and settlement.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know how many claims have been actually settled and discharged, and can Government give information about the total amount of money paid to the claimants so far?

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid the question is premature because claims

can be made till the 31st December, 1953, after which they will be scrutinised by us and presented. So, there is no question of claims being settled now.

DECLINE IN COAL EXPORT

***490. Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that coal export of this country is declining sharply?

(b) Since when is this trend in coal trade being noticed?

(c) What steps have Government taken to regain its lost market?

(d) What is the total amount of coal exported during the months of January to June, 1953?

(e) How does this figure compare with the corresponding period for 1952?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). The high level of exports reached during 1951 and 1952 has not been maintained during the current year. There has been instead a noticeable falling off since the beginning of this year. A statement showing monthly coal exports during 1951 to 1953 and another statement showing coal exports to different destinations during the years 1946 to 1953 are placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 3.]

(c) With a view to making our coal prices competitive in foreign markets, the commercial charge on exports of coal has been abolished from 11th May 1953. The procedure for exports has been simplified so that shippers are free to explore foreign markets, locate purchasers for their offers and then seek the sanction of the Coal Commissioner for export.

(d) Approximately 10.83 lakh tons.

(e) The figure for 1952 for the corresponding period was 18.14 lakh tons.

Shri K. P. Sinha: To which countries is our coal exported, and what has been the loss in revenue due to this fall?