

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what is the estimated cost of modernising the machinery of the jute mills in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The estimates vary from Rs. 70 crores to Rs. 140 crores.

Shri A. C. Guha: How is this to be spread over, and may I know whether Government is going to make any contribution or whether the jute mills alone will have to bear all this cost?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is premature to make any authoritative statement on this matter, because, as I said, the talks are going on; it is still in the stage of talks which are inconclusive.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know to what extent there will be retrenchment of labour as a result of such modernisation of the jute mills?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member is a trifle premature.

Shri N. S. Nair: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a newspaper report that Pakistan is trying to discriminate against India and is imposing an export duty on jute?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question has been answered on a previous occasion.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there is any large-scale unemployment due to want of raw jute for our industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot quite catch the import of the hon. Member's question.

HEAVY ELECTRO-MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES

***1677. Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration the question of opening heavy electro-mechanical industries in India in order to facilitate domestic consumption of Mica; and

(b) if so, how long will it take to materialise?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir, not in the immediate future.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri N. P. Sinha: All mica is exported to foreign countries, of course, after preliminary processing here, and it is brought to India for consumption only in a finished condition; we do not do anything here in the way of manufacture. Now that power is going to be available in the Bokaro area and in other areas, may I know whether the Government will take steps to introduce such industry in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Some efforts were made some three or four years back with a view to starting electro-mechanical industries in India, and three well known firms were asked to submit project reports. But owing to other considerations the schemes were given up. They may be revived, but I cannot say when.

Shri N. P. Sinha: The Mica Inquiry Commission has recommended that such industry should be started immediately. May I know whether Government is going to implement that recommendation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Recommendations are made, and we have got recommendations galore in the archives of the Government of India, but it does not mean that all recommendations can be implemented. There are considerations like finance which stand in the way of the recommendations being implemented.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is a fact that the mica mines in Godur have been closed down because of want of work and that many labourers have been discharged?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question relates to the utilisation of mica, not to the exploitation of mica.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS (EXPORT)

***1678. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any export of surgical instruments from India during the period 1948 to 1951; and

(b) if so, (i) to what country,

(ii) whether there has been any decline in the export; and

(iii) whether there has been any complaint from the importing countries for lack of standardisation?