

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a), (b) (i), (ii) and (iii). Exports of surgical instruments are small and statistics for the period 1948 to 1951 have not been recorded. Government have received no complaints from importing countries.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what are the principal places in India where these surgical instruments are manufactured?

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

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how many firms there are in India which manufacture surgical instruments?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Notice, Sir.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that surgical instruments were manufactured on a cottage industry basis in the Punjab?

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

Shri A. C. Guha: Has there been any manufacture of these surgical instruments on a cottage industry basis somewhere near Roorkee, and are these manufacturing centres now being closed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I require notice.

EXPORT AND IMPORT CONTROL ORGANISATION

***1681. Shri C. N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers, clerks and class IV servants employed in Export and Import Control Organisation in 1950, 1951 and its present strength and expenditure incurred on it; and

(b) whether any economy has been effected in the current year in staff as well as their emoluments?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 9].

(b) Proposals for some reduction in staff are under examination at present and some economy during the rest of the financial year is likely.

Shri C. N. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to reduce the staff?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. We are considering the proposal about reduction of the staff. We considered that question and we think that the reduction of staff to some extent is feasible at Bombay and Calcutta but at the other centres and headquarters it is not feasible.

Shri C. N. P. Sinha: May I know the income from the export and import licences?

Shri Karmarkar: The income during 1950-51 was 71.43 lakhs and during 1951-52 56.29 lakhs. The figures for the current year are awaited.

Shri T. N. Singh: Two years ago there was some increase in the staff in this Department. May I know whether today the level of persons employed is the same as two years before or some economy has been effected?

Shri Karmarkar: I want notice. But the expenditure as given in the statement shows a very small increase from 40.73 lakhs to 44.52 lakhs.

PUBLICATIONS IN HINDI

***1682. Shri C. N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of publications in Hindi issued by his Ministry and their circulation?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): Nil.

Shri C. N. P. Sinha: May I know whether the Government proposes to increase the number of publications in Hindi in view of the fact that Hindi is going to be the National Language?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, this question has been considered at various times at an earlier stage and to increase the number of Hindi publications was not considered to be feasible in view of the stringency of finance and then after the Industries and Commerce Ministry was integrated, the decision of the Ministry on this question was that the matter will be reconsidered after watching for some time as to how the combined journal i.e. the Journal of Industries and Trade and Commerce would fare.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : हिन्दी में इस के प्रकाशित होने में कितना रूपया खर्च होता है, क्या इस की कोई योजना बनाई गई है ?

श्री करमरकर : अभी होता ही नहीं है ।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : कितना खर्चा होगा ?

श्री करमरकर : इसके बारे में नोटिस चाहिये ।

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, A. I. R.

*1683. **Shri C. N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for abolishing the post of the Director of Public Relations in the All India Radio, Delhi ;

(b) whether other radio stations still continue to have Public Relations Officers; and

(c) if so, where and the total expenditure on this account in the current year's budget?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The post of Director of Public Relations at All India Radio headquarters was abolished in the interests of economy.

(b) and (c). The Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Lucknow Stations have Public Relations Officers. Total expenditure on their Pay and Allowances during the current year is estimated to be Rs. 34,016.

Shri C. N. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to appoint any active journalist in the post of Director of Public Relations?

Shri Karmarkar: The post has been retrenched.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated that the post has been retrenched in Delhi but these posts have been retained in three other stations. May I know whether the Government intend to retrench those three posts also?

Shri Karmarkar: It is not the intention of Government to retrench those posts because the Government feels that there is a necessity for such officers there and here the work would be integrated with the work of some other officers.

Shri T. N. Singh: What were the considerations which impelled the Government to retrench the post of Public Relations Officer here in Delhi and why those considerations should not apply elsewhere?

Mr. Speaker: I think the question is already replied, if the hon. Member has heard the reply.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, who is the officer now looking after the work which was done by this Director of Public Relations?

Shri Karmarkar: At the moment at Delhi headquarters the Editor of Indian Listener has been appointed to discharge the duties of the Director of Public Relations in addition to his own and that arrangement has been working quite satisfactorily.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether any extra remuneration is being given to this officer for the extra work?

Shri Karmarkar: I do not think so.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, if similar arrangement cannot be made at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras?

Shri Karmarkar: At the moment that cannot be done. That is the Government's view.

TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN

*1684. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of cost of Indian goods exported to Afghanistan and that of the commodities imported into India from that country ;

(b) the names of Indian goods exported to Afghanistan and the names of those imported from that country into India ; and

(c) whether Indian exports to Afghanistan have decreased after the Partition of India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 10].