

number of urban refugees will also be sent.

**Shri Badshah Gupta:** May I know, Sir, the special difficulties due to which they have returned to India again?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Forty-eight families have returned. The reasons are said to be three-fold: (1) Some of the businessmen who went there were not industrious—and hard work is essential in a comparatively undeveloped place like Andamans; (2) Some displaced persons could not adjust themselves to the new environments and returned to India; and (3) Some of these displaced persons who had been sent to Andamans got information from East Bengal that conditions had comparatively settled down there and they preferred to go back to their homes.

#### COFFEE (SALE PRICE)

\*83. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the Indian Coffee Board that its propaganda units should sell coffee at the market rates;

(b) whether the Coffee Houses were not selling coffee at a rate lower than the market rate;

(c) whether Government have consulted the Indian Coffee Board before issuing this directive; and

(d) the reasons for giving such a direction?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir; but Government's directive to this effect has been held in abeyance pending consideration of the representations received.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The directive was the result of detailed but informal discussions held with some of the prominent members of the Indian Coffee Board.

(d) The reason for the issue of the directive was that it was found that it was no longer necessary to give a weightage to sales ex-Coffee Houses.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know, Sir, how the market price of coffee compares with the price at which the Coffee Board was selling coffee in retail inside Coffee Houses?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice, but the rate in the Coffee

Houses is very reasonable as compared with the market rate.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know whether any arrangements have been made to enable the producers to get the enhanced rate?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Sir, it gives me an opportunity to explain. The real purpose of attempting to shut coffee sales in coffee houses was that we now produce roughly about 20,000 tons and our internal consumption rose up to 19,000 tons, almost consuming the whole production. Prewar, out of a total of 16,000 tons we used to export 8,000 tons. So with a view to encourage export and also to help the producer we thought of discouraging sales via the coffee houses; also we did not want our people to be more addicted to coffee at the present moment. Obviously pending consideration of the representations, the directive was held in abeyance.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** How much are we exporting?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This year, subject to correction, I think we have already allotted for export purposes about 1,200 tons and another 1,000 tons were recently allotted.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** Am I to understand that the Government are intending to introduce coffee prohibition?

**Shri Karmarkar:** There is no question of prohibition, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know, Sir, whether the price of coffee was increased because of advance bulk purchases by U.S.A. and U.K.?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am afraid, Sir, my hon. friend has shot wide of the mark. The question does not relate to increase of price. The question related to discouragement of sales in coffee houses with a view to induce greater export.

#### SILK INDUSTRY

\*84. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Silk Industry in India is faced with a hard struggle for existence on account of the fall in prices;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to criticisms that the violent fluctuations in prices are

mainly due to the unstable import policy of the Government and inadequate tariff protection; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to give adequate relief to the Industry?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The Government are aware that the Silk Industry has been facing a certain amount of difficulty.

(b) Fluctuations are due to general economic conditions and not to any Government policy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that about 5,000 silk looms are idle now in Mysore State alone?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I cannot be sure of the exact number, but Government are aware that some looms are idle.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the wholesale silk merchants have reduced their purchases by about 70 per cent.?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I could not be sure of the exact percentage, but it is a fact that raw silk is finding difficulty in sale.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** Is it a fact that silk worth about Rs. 5 lakhs is lying idle in Mysore State alone?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Is it a fact, Sir, that the import of artificial silk yarn was increased by 3 times in the year 1951-52?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice of that question, Sir. But import of artificial silk yarn has nothing to do with the slump in the silk trade.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** With respect to part (c), may I know, Sir, what is the form of the proposed relief other than revision of protective duties to silk weavers and cocoon rearers?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Protection by duties is our principal form of relief.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Is there a subsidy?

**Shri Karmarkar:** No, Sir.

**Shri Madiah Gowda:** May I know, Sir, whether it is not true that the encouragement of the rayon and artificial silk industry is partly responsi-

ble for the low price of silk which happens to be a poor man's industry?

**Shri Karmarkar:** No, Sir.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know, Sir, whether a statement by the Secretary of the Silk Manufacturers' Association to the effect that about 2,000 families are now unemployed due to the reduction in the price of silk in Mysore State alone has come to the notice of Government, and if so, what steps have been taken?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** Government will take note of that information from the hon. Member.

#### EXPORT DUTY ON OILSEEDS AND OILS

\*889. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the oilseeds and oils on which export duties have been abolished or reduced since the deflation started in March 1952?

(b) What would be their results on revenue in 1952-53?

(c) To how much quantity has the export quota of oilseeds and oils been increased as compared to the year 1951-52?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Export duties on kardiseed, nigerseed and groundnut oil have been abolished.

(b) The duty was abolished to avoid fall in exports. It is difficult to estimate the loss of revenue, if any, on account of the abolition of duty.

(c) Export quotas of oils and oilseeds for the year July 1952 to June 1953 have not yet been fixed.

**Shri Barman:** Are these export quotas fixed on a consideration of the internal needs or on some other consideration?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Necessarily on a consideration of internal needs.

**Shri Barman:** What is the *per capita* consumption of oil in the country?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have not got figures with regard to the *per capita* consumption of oil.

**Shri Barman:** May I know what is the policy of Government in exporting oilseeds instead of oil, in view of the fact that there is necessity of oil cakes in the country for cattle feed and for manure purposes?