

Shri Pecker Saheb: May I know what is the provision under law under which this monopoly is exercised by the Government?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall go into the history of the matter and then let the hon. Member know about it.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: May I know whether there has recently been a report by the Special Officer of Madras Government, in regard to the conditions in these islands, including the question under discussion now?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. That is partly true. The Special Inspection Officer, it appears, has made a report on the question of free trade which will be further examined by the State Government, with reference to the suggestion made by him.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: May I ask whether before any final action is taken a copy of the report will be placed on the Table of this House?

Shri Karmarkar: We shall consider the question.

FOOD MATERIALS (IMPORT & EXPORT)

*1043. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of food materials imported in the year 1951-52; and

(b) whether food materials were exported from India in the year 1951-52 and, if so, the total value of such exports?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 258.46 crores of which Rs. 230 crores represent foodgrains.

(b) No foodgrains are exported. The total value of other food articles in 1951-52 was Rs. 146 crores of which Rs. 93 crores represent tea, Rs. 30 crores represent spices and about Rs. 9 crores represent cashew nuts.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know what percentage share of the import trade was accounted for by these food imports?

Shri Karmarkar: What percentage these foodgrains would form of the total import? Well, I should like to have notice. But I am informed it is about 20 per cent, Sir.

IMPORTS FROM BRITAIN

*1044. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of imports made by Britain from India during the first quarter of this calendar year; and

(b) the total amount of Indian purchases of British goods during the corresponding period?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 37.9 crores.

(b) Rs. 45.3 crores.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the import and export position of our country was more favourable in the corresponding period last year?

Shri Karmarkar: In respect of the United Kingdom? So far as I could say offhand, last year it had been adverse to us.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, what were the chief items because of which the import and export position of our country became favourable this year?

Shri Karmarkar: The items are about the same, but the quantities vary.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know the names of the articles imported so far?

Shri Karmarkar: The items are about 52 in number, but I could mention some—bobbins, soda bicarbonate, cutlery, hardware, etc.

COTTON (EXPORT)

*1045. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton so far exported from this country during this calendar year; and

(b) what were the varieties of cotton thus exported?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 41].

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know, Sir, what is the total number of bales that is intended to be exported?

Shri Karmarkar: Well, Sir, the plan is to export, I think, round about 300,000 bales.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any intention to increase this quota of export since the prices have fallen because of this non-usable cotton being still in the market?