

included whatever comes in his mind. Then, the Government will be prepared. After these questions are put, there will be supplementaries which have to be asked for by other hon. Members. Therefore, let it not be an occasion for putting questions to Government and taking them by surprise. Real object is to elicit information wherever information cannot be collected from other published documents or in the library or elsewhere. That is the object.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Out of the 1,32,418 tons, gas coal came to about 49,025 tons. Mostly, it is gas coal.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Would it be advisable to ask or morally justified to ask what proportion of our total production is exported to Australia and what proportion is consumed here?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I wanted to say is that as the hon. Member who has tabled the question thinks now on the spur of the moment, he could have thought of these questions earlier. I am not saying that for other Members here, because, unless all these questions are handed over to them, they may not be able to know what the questions are. It is only when the information is given that they can ask supplementary questions. They cannot table additional questions. It was really with respect to the hon. Member who tabled the question that I said, why he should not think of all the pros and cons and try to elicit information so that Government may come oreared with that. There is no meaning in asking Government to come prepared anticipating every possible question in the world.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Particularly so with regard to figures where one has to be very careful.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Is gas prepared out of coal here in this country? If so, where, in what quantity, for what purpose?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Why?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have not got this information, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does everything relating to gas coal arise out of his question? Next question.

TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

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

(a) the value of Indian imports from Pakistan since 1st July of this year; and

(b) the value of India's exports to Pakistan during the corresponding period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). During the four months from July to October 1952, our imports from Pakistan were Rs. 6 crores and 24 lakhs, and our exports to Pakistan Rs. 9 crores and 25 lakhs.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the price of wheat which was diverted to Pakistan is also included in the value of exports given?

Shri Karmarkar: These figures are for actual exports and imports. I should presume that it is included.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the main items of our export to and import from Pakistan?

Shri Karmarkar: For these four months?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes.

Shri Karmarkar: Particularly for the four months, I have no information. But I can say generally about our exports and imports. It is a long list. I stand corrected. Here are the commodities. It is a long list.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Could not this question have been included in the question? It must be a long list: pepper, ginger, everyone of these things.....

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How would it be possible?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. If the hon. Member wanted a break up, they could have submitted a list, instead of taking the time of the House, reading the 100 items, barring the other questions here.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The whole difficulty is this. There were several things which were on the list before. Now-a-days most of the things are going out of trade. Normal trade is decreasing gradually. It was not possible at the time when I asked the question to ask.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Did the hon. Member discover this thing within 10 days?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes. There are several things.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would not allow that.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Several things used to be exported. Now they are not exported.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a lame excuse. When the question was tabled, he must know. In between, does the hon. Member expect the hon. Minister also to have information of what happened within these 10 days?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is the whole difficulty. Here is a question relating to imports and exports from 1st July until today. Everything until today comes in.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I say is, the value of the imports is here, asked. Why not the hon. Member ask, what are the items of imports along with that? Why should he reserve that for a supplementary question here and take the hon. Minister by surprise? Even if he should have the information, why should he take the time of the House by going on reading item by item?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I wanted...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I won't allow that. This is most unreasonable.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I want to ask another question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I won't allow any more question. This seems to be taking more time. There are one hundred questions here. How can I allow a fair opportunity to other Members also to come forward with their questions, and supplementary questions?

Shri Gadgil: May I respectfully submit, Sir, that up till now, the hon. Speaker and your good self have been very liberal enough to allow a fair measure of relevant supplementary questions. I do not know what happened today. But, I respectfully submit that so far as even this particular question is concerned, the policy with regard to import and export with respect to Pakistan has changed so often and so frequently that some latitude may be given to some Members who are anxious to get information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would have done the same thing even if the hon. Member had been on this side.

Shri Gadgil: If ever I happen to be on the other side, you will find me to be more amenable.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is nothing that has happened today. I remember distinctly that on a previous occasion also I said that hon. Members should not have up their sleeves some questions which they could have tabled along with the original question. I am not saying this for other Members who have not tabled the question. If they have any supplementaries even on the spur of the moment, let them by all means put them. When the hon. Member has asked for the value of the trade, he could have asked for the list of articles also. It is not as if I have changed. It is on account of the change in the question.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: If a Member has to put questions along with the original question for all the information he wants, what is the difference between a Starred and an Unstarred question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not going to argue hypothetically.

Shri Velayudhan: Does it mean that a Member who has tabled a question should not ask any supplementaries?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can ask supplementary questions arising out of the answer—certainly. If the answer happens to be negative, there is no supplementary. Even then, there may be some supplementaries arising out of that. As I said, when Members ask for the value of trade, they could have asked for the list of articles also, and then put supplementaries arising out of the answer. There is no good asking me for rulings about these matters. Every hon. Member is in a position to sit in this Chair and decide for himself. It is expected that every Member should take special care to see that the time of the House is not wasted by reading the rules, as if he is the Speaker himself. That is what I expect of all hon. Members.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the special discriminatory levy of Rs. 2/8/- per maund on all exports to India is still being continued by Pakistan?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is Rs. 2/8/- per maund on jute. That is my information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is there any discriminatory fee also on the exports that we make to Pakistan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think. To the best of my information, there is no discriminating fee as such, but the import duties which have been raised merely because we are more of

less having a monopoly of exporting to Pak'istan, often act in a discriminatory manner.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether a duty of 30 per cent. has just been fixed on certain articles such as betel leaves which were free of any duty previously?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid I will not be able to give any precise details. It is true that there has been an increase in duties, and it also seems to be a fact that our betel leaves are not going there. As the break-up of these figures will show, while in the month of July, we have been sending about Rs. 13 lakhs worth betel leaves, in the month of August, it was Rs. 4 lakhs, in the month of September, it was Rs. 19,000 and in the month of October, it was Rs. 6,000. Obviously, something is being done to restrict imports or exports, from this country, of betel leaves.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Government has not yet enquired as to what that something is that they are doing?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government has enquired, but in a matter of allowing of imports by a country which is a sovereign country, Government are unable to help in the matter except by communications we have through diplomatic channels.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether there are any extra facilities not available to other countries provided for the imports and exports we are having with Pakistan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would only say this. The discrimination, so far as we are concerned, is exercised only in regard to jute where there is discriminatory duty. Of course, there is also a certain amount of duty in the matter of license of kutcha bales and pucca bales, and India happens to import only kutcha bales, and therefore, even there, the increased licence fee for kutcha bales exports is a discriminating factor. And as hon. Members in this House are aware, the Government of India have entered a protest at the meeting of the signatories of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs which was held recently in Geneva against this discriminatory practice.

Shri Gidwanji: Is it a fact that betel leaves from Pakistan are brought into India through Indian airways?

Shri Karmakar: That is a fact, and on enquiry, I find that last time we imported Rs. 4 lakhs worth of betel leaves from Pakistan as against our exports of Rs. 1 crore to Pakistan.

Shri Damodara Menon: Are Government aware of any new restrictions imposed by Pakistan on import of betel leaves from India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: These restrictions are coming one after the other. I am unable to assign any priority to them.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh rose—

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it not a fact that.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What has been the outcome of India's protest to the G.A.A.T. organisation over Pakistan's discriminatory treatment of levying Rs. 2/8/- per maund on jute?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Chairman of the meeting of the G.A.A.T. asked both parties, India and Pakistan, to submit their replies. Pakistan wanted time to submit their reply, and therefore, the meeting came to an end. The matter is now in the hands of what is called the Inter-Sessional Committee which deals with such complaints.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any negotiation is being carried on between India and Pakistan in London in regard to resuming normal trade between the two countries?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I would say is that when the value of exports and imports had been gone into, the policy also could have been asked. But I have no objection. I shall give the rest of this time for this question.

Shri Gadgil: May I know whether within the framework of the present policy, the Government have explored the possibility of taking effective steps on their own part with respect to the trade with Pakistan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend who has been occupying this position before must know that in matters dealing with another country which is sovereign, the steps have got very limited effectiveness. To the extent it can be effective, we are pursuing every method and trying to negotiate with Pakistan in this matter. But it might also be—I do not mind saying this—that an undue interest in this matter would perhaps retard the effectiveness rather than increase it.

Shri Gadgil: It was suggested here that betel leaves from Pakistan are allowed here. But will not a policy of stopping import of Pakistan betel leaves into India, not necessarily as a

retaliatory policy, go a long way to change the attitude of the Pakistan people?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend has got to recognise the geography of the situation. These matters of trade and commerce have got a certain amount of geo-politics behind them. What happens is, some betel leaves are produced in an area of India which can go only to Pakistan, and can go to nowhere else. In these circumstances, Government have to think twice before banning these betel leaves going into Pakistan because the alternative is our own people are mulcted. Should we, for the sake of what is a matter of prestige, make our people suffer even though they can possibly sell their betel leaves in a particular area? Therefore, the matter is really being considered, and I think, at the moment, we are not freely permitting betel leaves to go into Pakistan from the area which the hon. friend has in mind.

Shri Gadgil: May I suggest.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid we are entering into a discussion. If the hon. Member wants to have a discussion, he may table a motion for that.

Shri Patasitar: I want to ask a question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No.

JUTE

*942. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the substitutes found by those who were buying jute from us in the past and how far have these substitutes replaced the supply of our raw jute and jute goods during recent years?

(b) What was the maximum export duty imposed on jute and how has it been reduced?

(c) How far has the reduction in export duty helped our jute industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) So far as jute goods are concerned, I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the answer given by me on the 18th July 1952 to Sterred question No. 1791 by Shri A. C. Guha. Export of raw jute is not allowed and no information is available about the extent it has been replaced by substitute fibres.

(b) The maximum export duty on raw jute has been Rs. 115/- per bale for long jute and Rs. 4/8/- per bale for

cuttings. These rates are still in force although no raw jute is now exported. If the hon. Member has jute manufactures in view, then the maximum duty for hessian was Rs. 1,500/- per ton which came into force on the 20th November 1950. It was subsequently reduced to Rs. 750/- per ton on the 18th February and to Rs. 275/- per ton on the 7th March 1952. The maximum duty on sacking was Rs. 350/- per ton from the 30th March 1951 to the 7th May 1952, when it was reduced to Rs. 175/- per ton.

(c) The main object of export duty on jute manufactures is to absorb the gap between the prices in India and the prices abroad. It is not therefore so much the reduction of export duty as the present lower prices of Indian goods which have helped the Indian industry by restoring the competitive strength of its products.

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय :

सरकार की ओर से क्या कार्रवाई हुई है विशेष रूप से अमरीका में इस बात के जाहिर करने के लिए कि हमारे

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अग्रेजी में बं.लिए।

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:

What steps have been taken so far by Government, especially in America, to show to our customers there that our products are the cheapest and the best? What amount has been spent over it, and what agencies have been employed for the purpose?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter in which the Government does not take any steps normally, excepting such aid as they render through diplomatic channels. I understand that the Indian Jute Manufacturers' Association has launched upon a propaganda effort in the United States of America, and the Government is watching with great interest the result of those efforts.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is it a fact that our American customers have got used to substitutes, and they are reluctant now to come back to our products, especially packing materials.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is undoubtedly a fact that the American users have got accustomed to paper substitutes. We hope that their reluctance to revert to jute bags is being slowly broken down.