

Dr. Ram Subhas Singh: On a point of order. How does this American propaganda arise out of this question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am glad the hon. Member has put this question. But I am here also to decide which question is right, and which wrong.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, since the raising of the rate of export of jute that started in the beginning of the year, whether that rate has been maintained, and also the figures for the recent months?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think I have given the figures before, and I could give the figures again, but unfortunately, I have not got them here.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister, may I know whether the Government has given any financial aid for the propaganda on jute bags in the United States of America?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what the hon. Minister has answered just now.

Shri B. S. Murthy: That question was different. It related to the kind of propaganda that is being carried on, and the hon. Minister referred to the propaganda done by the Association.

May I know whether the Government has given any financial aid?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. Government has given a token aid of \$25,000 towards the propaganda that is being conducted in the United States of America on behalf of jute products.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the Government will request these trade organisations to open out trade relations with non-dollar areas to tide over the slump in the jute industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can take that suggestion from the hon. Member.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether the increase in our export in the beginning of this year was in respect of packing materials or hessian?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would very willingly oblige the hon. Member, but unfortunately I have not the figures, because the question did not relate to that. I am quite willing to supply the information to the hon. Member privately, or if he chooses to put a question, it will be answered.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the comparative value and quality of the substitute which they are using in place of jute?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member has in mind, the substitute being used in the United States of America, it is largely paper bags.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Naturally it will be cheaper.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Very slightly cheaper.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: I want to know the exact percentage by which it is cheaper so that we also could see whether the price of jute manufacture in this country can be reduced to that extent. What efforts are being made by the Government in the matter in this respect?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I had the information with me, but I am afraid I did not bring it here, but I shall give the information to the hon. Member if he wants it.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether the demand for hessian in the United States is again looking up?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hessian market is one of those extremely temperamental markets, and I cannot positively say whether it is looking up or not, because one week we do find that it is looking up, but in the next week we find it depressed again.

TEA (EXPORTS)

*943. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantity of tea exported from India in each of the years from 1947 to 1951;

(b) the names of countries that are competing with India in respect of world tea-supply;

(c) how far the policy of the Government of India to re-export tea to European Continent through U.K. is successful as against the free market policy of other tea-producing countries; and

(d) the demand for Indian tea in the world market in the first quarter of 1952-53?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 40.]

(c) There is no difference now in the policy of Government of India and that of other tea-producing countries as regards re-export of tea to European countries through U.K.

(d) The total exports of Indian tea during the first quarter 1952-53 was 57.1 million lbs.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the South Indian export tea which can compete with the best type of Ceylon tea has been fixed on the double taxation, as recommended by the Export Promotion Committee?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government has received any complaints about the indigenous chests for tea, whether a picture appeared in a newspaper showing Indian tea in Indian chests, and Pakistan tea in foreign chests, with the Indian chests broken?

Shri Karmarkar: Both about the chests and the newspaper, I should like to have notice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Was not this question put on a number of occasions earlier?

Shri Karmarkar: It has been put times out of number.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In answer to part (c) of the question, the hon. Minister stated that there is no difference now in the policy of the Government of India and that of other tea producing countries as regards re-export of tea to European countries through the United Kingdom. May I know what was the difference before this?

Shri Karmarkar: There was no difference earlier. We did not mind tea being exported, after its import into the United Kingdom. At a certain stage it was our aim in the postwar period to establish auction centres for Indian tea in Calcutta and Cochin. In the past, re-exports of Indian tea were not permitted for fear that foreign buyers might switch over their operation from Calcutta but free exports through the United Kingdom were permitted. However in the context of a sharp fall in prices and the need to find increased outlets for tea, it was found that re-export from U.K. to continental Europe should be permitted.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how we are faring after we have left the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice about that.

Shri Sarmah: What are the other countries, if any, from which Britain imports tea?

The Minister of Commerce and Industries (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Ceylon happens to be our major competitor; the other countries are Pakistan, Indonesia, and East Africa.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir...

Shri Sarmah: rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member comes from a tea area. I am sure he knows that Ceylon, Indonesia etc. are producers of tea.

Shri Sarmah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my next question will elucidate what I am driving at. What is the difference between the wholesale price in Britain and the ceiling price that is fixed by Britain for retail sale and the average market price in Britain last month?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I understand that in respect of a Short Notice Question that I answered in this House hon. Members have tabled a demand for a half-hour discussion. I believe it has been permitted by the hon. the Speaker. I think these questions can be appropriately asked at that time. I shall have all the figures at my disposal and I will give all the information that I possibly can.

Shri Sarmah: Subject to correction, I suppose rationing of tea in Britain has been lifted since then i.e. when we had the discussion last. Therefore, I just want to know if it is possible for the hon. Minister to give the information as to what is the difference between the wholesale price in Britain and the ceiling price for retail sale in the open market. It is important in this way...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He need not explain the importance.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I shall give all that information at that discussion.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether Government have envisaged any plan for the expansion of our tea trade with other countries as we have come out of the International Tea Expansion Board.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir; it is under our consideration.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: It was thought that when re-export from England would be allowed, the price would rise. It is on this idea that re-export was permitted. Is it a fact that after the re-exports, the prices have fallen?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That may be a fact, Sir.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know, Sir, whether there is a demand by the tea industry that further re-exports should be allowed also to America, to which it has not yet been allowed.

Shri T. T. Kriahnamachari: At the present moment, I do not think we have any understanding with the United Kingdom to limit their re-exports in regard to any country. I think they are free to do what they like.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: In view of the fact that permission to re-export tea from the United Kingdom to other countries has not raised the prices and also in view of the fact that that permission has affected the Calcutta tea market by limiting its export area, will Government consider...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are making suggestions after suggestions. The Government will consider everything. But this is not the occasion for making suggestions.

RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS (INVESTIGATIONS)

*944. **Shri T. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to make a statement on the investigations which are being carried out in various states under the direction of the Central Water and Power Commission in connection with River Valley and Hydro Electric Projects?

(b) How many of these are nearing completion, which of these schemes for which investigations have been made will be taken in hand in the next two years and what is the nature of the financial arrangement between the States concerned and the Centre, as also the agency of execution of these Projects?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the importance of this question, it would be better if the hon. Minister just disclosed the names of the projects of which the investigations had been completed or were being carried on.

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir. I will tell the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The statement has been laid?

Shri Hathi: The hon. Member wants to know the names of the various projects.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it a long statement?

Shri Hathi: It is not long. I can read it out.

(a) The following are the projects in various States on which investigations are being carried out by the C.W.P.C.:

- (1) Kosi Project in Bihar.
- (2) Narmada Projects (Tawa, Punasa and Broach) in Bombay and Madhya Pradesh.
- (3) Dihang and Manas Projects in Assam.
- (4) Mahanadi and Jonk Projects in Madhya Pradesh.
- (5) Ganga Barrage Project in West Bengal.
- (6) Tikkarpara and Naraj Dams Projects in Orissa.

(b) Investigations on the Sabarmati Project in Bombay and Harangi Project in Coorg have been completed and the Project Reports are under preparation. The investigations on the Kosi, Narmada (Tawa, Punasa and Broach), and Ganga Barrage Projects are nearing completion. As regards execution, financial arrangements, and agency execution, the position is as follows:—

Kosi Project: The investigations on this project were completed in June, 1950 and a Project Report was prepared. As a result of examination of this Report by an Advisory Committee, who recommended certain changes, further investigations were taken up. The Project has been accepted by the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Five Year Plan. The financial and technical responsibility of the Central Government, Government of Bihar and the Government of Nepal, the programme of construction and agency of execution have not yet been settled.

Ganga Barrage Project: As a result of investigations carried out so far, a Project report has been prepared and is under examination, in consultation with the Government of West Bengal and the Planning Commission. The various points referred to will be examined only after the Project has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Sabarmati Project, Harangi Project and Narmada Project: Further action on the various points can be taken only after the Project reports have been prepared and if, on the basis of the Project Reports, the Projects are found to be technically and financially feasible. It is not possible to give any definite information at this juncture.