

Shri K. C. Reddy: I can give this assurance that the interests of the country and the interests of our project will always be kept in mind.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is no answer to my question...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is not the occasion when in the form of questions assurances can be asked for from Government. Only facts can be elicited.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I put a question. The hon. member did not divulge the information. He said it is only at the negotiation stage. I wanted an assurance whether India's interests will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. members cannot ask for assurances on the floor of the House during this question hour. They can only elicit information.

Shri Nambiar: If at all they can, let them give.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They won't give. This is not the proper occasion for it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how many sites have been examined and whether any new sites are to be examined yet?

Shri K. C. Reddy: One in Bihar and one in Madhya Pradesh and one in Orissa.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

***1025. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having diplomatic relations with 'Israel';

(b) whether any Indians have relinquished citizenship of India to acquire the citizenship of Israel;

(c) whether any Indians have left India to have their permanent residence in Israel and if so, how many; and

(d) whether any Indians, who have gone to Israel for permanent residence have come back, and if so, how many?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) India has recognized the Government of Israel but thus far neither country has a diplomatic mission in the other.

(b) None.

(c) It is estimated that 2,367 Jews have emigrated from India to Israel

since 1948. It is not known how many of them were of Indian nationality.

(d) Yes, about 332 Indians returned to India from Israel during the period 15th May, 1948, to 31st August, 1952.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether all those persons who went to Israel for permanent residence there, relinquished the Indian citizenship when they went there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is not necessary according to the laws of Israel. Any Jew who migrates into that country automatically acquires the nationality of that country.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether for rehabilitating those who returned from Israel, the Government had to spend any amount?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Not to our knowledge, Sir.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have sent any students to Israel to watch and study the modern agricultural developments in that country?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: How does that question arise out of the parent question, Sir? If I have notice, certainly I can enquire.

BICYCLES (IMPORT POLICY)

***1026. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the reason for the delay in the announcement of 'bicycle import policy' by Government for the latter half of the current year?

(b) What is the total annual demand of bicycles in India and what is the indigenous supply of the same?

(c) What is the present stock of bicycles and what was the total import of bicycles in the first half of this year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to para. 2 of the introduction to the Red Book of Import Trade Control Policy for the period July—December, 1952, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The total annual demand is estimated to be nearly 500,000 cycles. The indigenous production was 114,275 cycles during 1951 and 131,106 cycles this year upto September.

(c) Government have no information about the present stock position. During the first half of this year

1,38,216 complete bicycles valued at Rs. 1,42,45,338/- were imported.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any progressive increase in demand for bicycles in the country and if that is correct, what is the percentage of increase per year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, these are mere estimates. The Tariff Commission, from time to time, estimated the demand from three lakhs to three and half lakhs and four lakhs. The Development Wing attached to the Commerce and Industry Ministry is also estimating it from time to time and it has now estimated it to be about five lakhs. Therefore, Sir, it is merely a matter of estimate and there is no method of assessing the progressive increase in demand with any degree of accuracy.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, for the balance of our demand, wherefrom it is being imported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, as I have said, there is a certain amount of manufacture in this country. That manufacture is progressively increasing. We expect that by the end of this year, three big plants will be almost in full production; and there are several small plants as well. The balance is made up by import from soft currency areas.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether there is any time fixed before the period concerned, when the announcement of the policy must be made?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member will perhaps know that in the policy announcement which was made sometime last month, it was indicated to the consumers that no licences would be issued for the current half year. The policy announcement for the next half year will have to be made. I cannot tell the hon. Member whether I can make the policy announcement in this matter within a stated time or not. It all depends upon the stocks position.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, whether indigenous bicycles compare favourably with the imported bicycles in the matter of price and quality?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the matter of price, I understand that they compare favourably and in the matter of quality I think they are equally good.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What is the total production of Hindustan cycles in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: During the year 1952, up to September, it was 3506, and the figures indicate a progressive increase.

Shri Basappa: Is it a fact that Members of Parliament are using cycles?

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know the increase in production of the Hindustan bicycles?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not able to say, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister stated that the indigenous cycles compare favourably with imported cycles in price and quality. May I know, Sir, whether the Commerce Ministry has suggested to the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry that, in view of these observations, that Ministry should confine the purchase of cycles to the indigenous cycles?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is said there is under-production in our country.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Production is not adequate for the needs of the people. There is no point in asking any particular Ministry to confine its purchases to indigenous production.

PEPPER

*1027. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

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

(b) the names of countries to which pepper is exported;

(c) how far the recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee urging the growers, dealers and shippers of pepper to attempt to reduce prices to a more reasonable level have been accepted and implemented; and

(d) how the Indonesian supply is competing with the Indian supply?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 11.]

(b) U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R., Italy, Canada and Western Germany.

(c) The need for Government interference in the matter has not so far arisen because the prices of pepper have more or less remained at a reasonable level.