

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 23rd July, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Export of Coffee

*247: **Shri Keshava:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the present position regarding the export of coffee to Finland, the USA and Australia as a result of the discussions the delegations from these countries had with the Indian Coffee Board?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): The Coffee Board has allocated a quantity of 600 tons of coffee specifically for export to Finland and Australia, and another 500 tons for export to the USA.

Shri Keshava: Even in Europe, people appreciate the quality of the Indian coffee in preference to Brazilian coffee. I learn that Denmark was anxious to have coffee trade with India direct and that they are able to have the trade only through the UK. May I know if it is a fact and if anything could be done in the matter?

Shri Kanungo: I do not think that it is a correct state of the position in respect of exports for any country. Any country is welcome to buy in the Government auctions either directly or through their shippers.

Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar: How is the price of our coffee compared to the prices obtaining in the United States, Australia and Finland?

Shri Kanungo: I could not give the exact prices. Qualities also differ and comparisons are rather difficult.

Shri Dasappa: Is the demand for our coffee greater than we are able to meet?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): We have not enough coffee to export.

Shri Dasappa: That is what I say. Am I to understand that there is greater demand in the foreign markets than what we are able to cater?

Shri Kanungo: That is exactly the reason why we have on hand a programme for increasing the acreage under coffee.

Dr. K. B. Menon: May I know whether the closing of some of the coffee shops by the Coffee Board in the South is due to a change in the programme of the Coffee Board or is it because the work there is quite satisfactory?

Shri Kanungo: I beg to submit that there is no reference in this question to the coffee shops.

Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar: In view of the increase in the output of coffee this year, would the Government consider the possibility of increasing its export in order to earn foreign exchange which we are in dire need of?

Shri Kanungo: That is exactly why we have allotted this quantity for specific exports plus other exports.

Import Licences for Tractors

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*248 { **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import licences worth about Rs 8,00,000 for tractors were granted to some Bombay firms during July—December, 1956;