

**Shri Satish Chandra:** That is true. There is a general trade agreement with that country under which they can demand payment in sterling. But, for certain specific articles, a separate agreement has been entered into with that country under which the rupee payment will be utilised for the purchase of goods in India.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In view of the stability of the Indian rupee, and in view of our foreign exchange difficulties, I want to know whether the Government have discussed this question at any governmental level with other countries.

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** There are two aspects of the problem posed by the hon. Member: the convertible rupee and the non-convertible rupee. What my colleague was replying was with respect to such which are convertible rupees. As to non-convertible rupees, a category of listed goods is there. Also we have certain balance of payments. These listed goods which are not normally exported to that country, if that country is acceding to our request to buy out of the listed goods, then, we allow them to do so against the non-convertible rupees.

**Shri Heda:** The Minister has cleared that certain rupees are convertible and certain rupees are non-convertible. May I know whether he has placed any limit on the amount of rupees being convertible?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes. Generally there is a monetary ceiling attached to every agreement; with respect to these four countries there is a monetary ceiling.

#### European Common Market Scheme

+

\*817. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Heda:**  
**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**

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

(a) whether the scope and effects of the formation of the European

Common Market Scheme have been studied by Government; and

(b) if so, how India's trade is likely to be affected by it?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) and (b). The European Common Market Scheme has been studied on the basis of the material as far as available with the Government. In this connection, attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the reply given by the Finance Minister to starred Question No. 583 put by Sarvashri Raghunath Singh, N.C. Kasliwal and Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha on 2nd August, 1957. The Scheme has not yet come into operation and it would be premature to assess its likely effects on India's trade. The association of the overseas territories however would amount to the creation of a new preferential block which may have some adverse effects on our export trade. The Scheme is, however, being considered in the G.A.T.T. and it is hoped that it would be supplemented by arrangements which may be considered satisfactory to all the contracting parties.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** In his reply he says that a portion of this scheme may have some adverse effects on our export trade. May I know what positive steps Government propose to take to protect their interests, the interests of our export trade.

**Shri Kanungo:** The possible adverse effects may be felt after a period of years: not immediately. We are watching because arrangements have not been completed. We have not got a clear picture of it here.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** May I know what were the commitments made by the Indian delegation to the G.A.T.T. conference in Geneva regarding this scheme?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai):** Not beyond those which are contained in the agreement itself.

**Shri Heda:** In view of the statement that has appeared in *The Statesman* today by Sir Hugh Gaitskell, the Leader of the Opposition in the U.K. that they have not yet finalised the arrangements about joining the Common market, that they are entering the free trade area, that itself being the beginning of the end, may I know whether Government have taken a comprehensive view or are they going to wait till the effects are felt?

**Shri Morarji Desai:** We are taking all this into consideration, and we are also watching. Both things are done.

**Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know the names of the countries which have agreed to the European common market scheme?

**Shri Kanungo:** Six countries entered into an agreement under the Treaty of Rome, viz., West Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy. They have signed the treaty in March 1957 but the implementation of that treaty is still under discussion and consideration.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** May I know if Government have placed their views about this before U.K. Government and have there been any discussions?

**Shri Kanungo:** Discussions are going on in GATT on its effects on our and other countries also, but a clear picture has not come as yet.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** Have they discussed the matter specifically with the U.K. Government and with what effect?

**Shri Kanungo:** We are discussing it with all countries in the GATT of which U.K. is a member.

**Shri Heda:** In view of the existing Commonwealth tariff preferences, what is the view of our Government as to whether the U.K. can unilaterally take action or whether they will have to consult us before they take any action?

**Shri Kanungo:** All these have got to be discussed in GATT because the

GATT agreement is applicable to us, and waivers must be agreed to.

### चाय का उत्पादन

\* ८१८ श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या बरिष्ठमन्त्री तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर रेल्वे के पांच पहाड़ी जिलों, यथा देहरादून, गढ़वाल, अल्मोड़ा, नैनीताल और टिहरी गढ़वाल में १९५० से १९५६ तक प्रति वर्ष चाय का कुल कितना उत्पादन हुआ,

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इन जिलों में चाय का कारबार दिनोंदिन घटता जा रहा है, और

(ग) यदि हा, तो चाय उद्योग को विकसित करने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

बरिष्ठमन्त्री (श्री काङ्गो) : (क) सभा की मज पर एक विवरण रखा जाता है। [बंदिष्ये परिशिष्ट ३ प्राबन्ध संख्या ६५]

(ख) गिरावट का कोई खास मूल देखने में नहीं आया है।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमान्, इस विवरण में स्वयं स्पष्ट है कि जब कि सन् १९५५ में चाय का उत्पादन २१३१ हजार पींड हुआ, १९५६ में वह १००४ हजार पींड रह गया और सन् १९५७ में जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है चाय का उत्पादन उससे भी नीचे गिर गया है। गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान क्या इस और आकर्षित हुआ है कि चाय उपयोगी सिद्ध न होने के कारण चाय के कई बगीचे समाप्त करके वहां पर खेती की जाने लगी है और क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कोई विशेष कार्यवाही की जायेगी ?

बरिष्ठमन्त्री तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मोरारजी देसाई) : इससे ज्यादा पैदा नहीं होगा और