

a market. But mainly, the delegation came here to discuss the Indo-Ceylon Tobacco Agreement which expired on 31st August, 1957, negotiations have taken place for its renewal for a further period of four years

Shri Radha Raman: The hon. Minister just now stated that negotiations have not been finalized. May I know how long it will take for the Government to finalize it and whether there is any possibility of it being done soon?

Shri Satish Chandra: The agreement has actually been drawn up but it is subject to ratification by the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon. It has not yet been ratified.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether under the agreement entered into between Ceylon and India, the Ceylon Government has agreed to take more of our commodities and, if so, what are they?

Shri Satish Chandra: As I said, this relates to the tobacco agreement and its renewal.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What quantity?

Shri Satish Chandra: India will import 1,500 candies of Jafna chewing tobacco and export beedis and tobacco for cigarettes to Ceylon. This is an agreement for exchange of one variety of tobacco for another.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: According to the original agreement, which has lapsed, the import of chewing tobacco to our country has adversely affected the chewing tobacco growers in Tamil Nad. Will that be taken into account while finalising the agreement?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is not so. It has not substantially affected our growers. There is also a provision in the agreement that in each succeeding years the quota will be reduced by 20 per cent.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that under the agreement we are taking about 1,500 candies of Jafna tobacco and that we are supplying some beedi tobacco. May I know the

approximate value of beedi and beedi tobacco which has been specified in the agreement?

Shri Satish Chandra: The export of beedi and beedi tobacco etc. will bring us slightly over Rs. 2 crores worth of foreign exchange over the period of the proposed agreement.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know whether it is a fact that prohibitive duty has been imposed by the Government of Ceylon on our export of beedi and whether this factor has been taken into consideration before deciding about our tobacco imports.

Shri Satish Chandra: All these matters have been discussed.

Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty

*836. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 250 on the 23rd July, 1957 and state:

(a) whether a revised Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty has since been concluded; and

(b) if so, the main changes effected therein?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Fire Works

*837. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent ban on some varieties of fire-works like 'atom bombs', 'champion crackers', 'putputias' and 'pistols' has proved effective; and

(b) the total death toll taken by these crackers in accidents of all types during and before the recent Diwali festival?