

reference are going to be suitably modified?

**Shri Abid Ali:** I have already submitted that we have not received any such request as yet.

### Tea Exports

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- \*7. { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**  
**Shri M. Elias:**

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

(a) whether Government have any figures regarding the unusually high profits made on the re-exports of Indian tea, bought in the Calcutta and London auctions to countries on the continent of Europe; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to direct the State Trading Corporation that such exports to continental countries are made directly from India under its own auspices?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) and (b). No, Sir.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the reported practice of foreign subsidiary companies in Calcutta showing on their books a considerably lower price of tea exported to countries like Germany than what is actually charged by their principals in London, may I know what steps are proposed by Government to prevent India losing both on the count of foreign exchange and on the count of income-tax?

**Shri Kanungo:** The assumptions are not wholly correct. The margin between the prices in the Calcutta auctions and in the London auctions is fairly thin. And after all as far as re-exports are concerned, the quantum of India tea re-exported from U.K. is barely one-twentieth of the total quantum.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to the danger represented by foreign interests in the tea industry when they threaten to spoil our marketing system by boosting East

African tea in preference to Indian tea, whenever they choose to do so?

**Shri Kanungo:** Such information has not come to our knowledge.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Are Government aware that Indian tea is selling at a very high price in European markets, and if so, what steps have Government taken to ensure that this high price results in foreign exchange earnings to this country and does not result in profits to companies situated abroad?

**Shri Kanungo:** The chief factor of the higher prices in some of the continental countries is the high import duty in those countries, which range from 100 to 150 per cent.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question was in the negative. But the point was about the figures. May I know whether Government actually do not possess any figures about the price rates in the continent for tea?

**Shri Kanungo:** We have figures about exports from India and re-exports of Indian tea from U.K. But the question was about the prices.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** We had asked for figures. We had asked whether Government have any figures regarding the unusually high prices in those countries. The answer was in the negative. Does it mean that Government do not have those figures?

**Shri Kanungo:** We cannot have those figures; and those figures are available in U.K. only.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know whether Government can give us the prevailing rate at which tea is being sold in the continent and the rate at which it is sold in the auctions at Calcutta?

**Shri Kanungo:** I could not give the figures in respect of the various countries in Europe, but I can give you a comparative idea of the Calcutta prices and the London prices.

**Shrimati Benu Chakravartty:** We do not want that.

**Shri Kanungo:** Obviously, the import duty is 100 to 150 per cent. more. So, we do not have those figures here.

### Coir Research Institute

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{ **Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hasda:**

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

(a) whether the proposed Coir Research Institute with a model factory attached to it has since been started in West Bengal;

(b) whether training arrangements for the industry will also be arranged;

(c) when the proposed show-room and sales depot of Coir industry products will be opened in Calcutta; and

(d) the amount spent in the State of West Bengal by the Coir Board since its inception?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) No, Sir. The scheme has been only just sanctioned.

(b) Yes, Sir; separately in the training-cum-production centres proposed to be started by the State Government.

(c) Towards the end of this year.

(d) The State Government are just starting to take interest in Coir development and are shortly drawing up plans for consideration of the Coir Board.

With your permission Sir, I may also add that provision for coir development in the Second Plan for West Bengal is Rs. 6 lakhs.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know when the decision to open a coir research institute in West Bengal was taken, and why so much delay has been caused?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This plan was drawn up at the beginning of the year, and the sanction was accorded only last month.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether there is any interim arrangement for the training of workers in Kerala or in Madras?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, we are arranging in the production-cum-training centres in all the four States for the training of boys for this institute.

**Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar:** In view of the coir industry being situated in the West Coast of India, what action do Government propose to take to set up another research institute in the West Coast?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** After going into the experience of these two Institutes, the Coir Board will certainly look into the question of developing such Institutes elsewhere also if necessary.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Are Government aware that the retail selling prices of manufactured coir mattings in the show room maintained by the Coir Board in different places are 25 per cent. higher than the ordinary market rates?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is not correct. But the prices vary from quality to quality. Some of the high qualities which are very much in demand naturally have higher prices than inferior qualities.

### बर्मा में भारतीय

\*१० श्री अरुण वर्जन : क्या प्रधान मंत्री १ मई, १९५६ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १८३४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत महायुद्ध में बर्मा में भारतीयों को जो हानि उठानी पड़ी थी उसकी क्षतिपूर्ति कराने की दिशा में इस बीच और क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

बैरोसिक कार्य उपमंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेहन) : इस मामले में तब से अब तक कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई है ।