

### Sugar

\*552. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state;

(a) whether the increase in the excise duty on sugar has brought the desired result of restricting consumption of sugar, and

(b) whether the export of sugar has increased?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) and (b) The enhanced rate of duty on sugar has been in force only over a period of 2½ months. This is much too short to lead to any definite conclusion as regards the effect of this enhancement either on the volume or internal consumption or on exports. So far the increase in duty has had no marked effect on consumption.

The figures quoted below of quantities of sugar exported each month from February 1957 to June 1957 would indicate that the trend of exports has been definitely upwards --

February 1957	2,50,000	cwts
March 1957	3,00,000	"
April 1957	5,00,000	"
May 1957	5,00,000	"
June 1957	6,00,000	"

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether it is a fact that the price of sugar in foreign countries has gone down and, therefore, there is little chance of sugar being exported from India?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A question was asked of my colleague yesterday on this point. I think he mentioned that the price of sugar in the world market has gone down to some extent. But it must also be conceded that the price of sugar in India has gone up simultaneously.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether the sugar tax per lb is 5 annas but the price of sugar has gone up by 2 annas per lb?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** So far as the tax is concerned, that does not affect exports. The entire amount of tax is refunded. So the question of there being a higher tax does not in any way prevent exports. But if local prices go up in addition to whatever is the tax amount, as it has been the case during the last two months, that margin is such as would perhaps more than cover the difference between what our expectations in this regard are of prices that will be quoted by the Indian merchants and the prices ruling elsewhere.

**Shri Tangamani:** The hon Deputy Minister was pleased to state the quantity of sugar exported month by month from February 1957. May we also know the quantity of sugar consumed internally month by month since February 1957?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** We shall have to collect the information asked for from the proper Ministry. If the hon Member puts down a question on consumption, the Minister of Food and Agriculture I think, would be able to answer.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Durgapur Steel Plant

\*574. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) the number of engineers and technicians for the Durgapur Steel Plant who have been sent to United Kingdom for training in the Steel works,

(b) when the rest are likely to be sent, and

(c) the period of training in the United Kingdom?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) None so far, 75 engineers will be sent to the UK in 1957, of these, the first

28 will be put on training in the U.K next month;

(b) The rest of a total of 300 engineers to be trained in the UK under the Colombo Plan will be sent in 1958 and 1959,

(c) The initial period of training is 1 year which may be extended by mutual agreement

#### European Common Market Scheme

\*583. { Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri N. C. Kasliwal:  
Shrimati Tarkeshwari  
Sinha:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the attitude of India regarding the European Common Market Scheme?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The formation of common markets has been tentatively accepted in principle by the contracting parties to GATT. Whether the provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Common Market are consistent with the specific provisions laid down by the GATT is a matter for further examination. The Treaty is to come up for consideration in the GATT at its session beginning in October. It is only after consideration of the Treaty in the GATT that the exact scope of the European Common Market Scheme and its conformity with the principles of the GATT would be clear. It is too early, therefore, for the Government of India to have any definite attitude towards the European Common Market Scheme.

#### 'Bharat Darshan Yatra'

\*584. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are giving concessions or arranging tour programmes such as Bharat Darshan Yatra for students,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give such concessions to primary school teachers as well, and

(c) if so, when?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Yes, Sir; under the youth welfare programme, grants are given for educational tours to the students of recognised Colleges and High Schools.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

#### India's Sterling Assets

\*585. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether the agreement with the UK requiring India to maintain a £300 million currency reserve in sterling assets has expired, and

(b) what is the present position of India's sterling assets in that reserve?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The Indo-UK Financial Agreement dated 20-7-1953, under which the Government of India agreed not to draw upon the sum of £310 million held as a currency reserve, without previous consultation with the UK Government, expired on the 30th June, 1957.

(b) On the 26th July, 1957, the foreign securities in the currency reserve held in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank of India amounted to Rs 400 52 crores.

#### Marine Steel Industry

\*586. { Shri Shankariah:  
Shri Naushir Bharucha:  
Shri Shivnanajappa:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that high grade iron ore is found at Sandur, Bellary District, Mysore State;

(b) the analysis of such deposits and the quality of ore;