

May I know if this year any application has been made by the tea industry?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I do not know whether there was any such scheme last year. So far as I know this scheme has been introduced for the first time. Therefore such a question really does not arise. As to whether any specific application has been made by any tea concern, I cannot say because that does not arise out of this question.

**Shri Punnoose:** The hon. Minister stated that certain allocations have been made or are being made to certain States. May I know whether any allocation has been made to the Travancore-Cochin State or whether any application has been received from that State?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I may tell the hon. Member through you, Sir, that no application had been received from the Travancore-Cochin Government. But, one of the Central Ministers actually went on tour there and he contacted the Travancore-Cochin Government to find out if they had any scheme. We have also sent a formal communication to them, asking them to send up any scheme if they are interested.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us go to the next question.

#### RUBBER PRICES

\*538. **Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the present price of rubber in the world market?

(b) What is the present price of rubber in India?

(c) What is the quantity of rubber used in India for the manufacture of rubber goods (i) cycle tyres; (ii) motor tyres; and (iii) other goods?

(d) Are the prices of these goods controlled?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 17.]

(d) No, Sir.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** May I know whether the prices ruling in Singapore is the determining factor regarding the market price of world rubber?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is taken as one of the representative prices, outside India.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** What are the other factors?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I did not say factors; I said, it is one of the representative prices outside India.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** What are the other prices?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Other world prices at different trading centres.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know whether the Government are in possession of any statistics as regards the cost of production of rubber in India?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** This matter was investigated by the Tariff Commission and the present price of Rs. 138 per 100 pounds has been fixed on their recommendation. It must be pretty obvious to hon. Members that the Tariff Commission must have had adequate figures and statistics at their disposal for coming to this conclusion.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** May I know whether representations were not made to the Minister of Commerce and Industry last year when the market price was Rs. 300 per 100 pounds to increase the price of Rs. 122-8-0 a little more?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** All these representations have been made from time to time by the concerned interests. Every time a representation was made, the matter has been referred to the authority which is competent to pronounce an opinion. On the last occasion, the Tariff Board went into the matter and fixed the price. On receipt of further representation, Government had referred the matter again to the Tariff Commission and the present price is the result of their enquiry.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know what is the difference between the world market prices of rubber and the price fixed by the Government of India recently?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The difference is given in the statement. The world price of rubber as on 7th November, 1952 was Rs. 123-5 for 100 lbs. of R.M.A. 1 rubber FOB Singapore. The Indian price of rubber, as my hon. friend may know, is Rs. 138 per 100 lbs. of R.M.A. 1 rubber FOB Cochin.

**Shri A. V. Thomas:** Is it not a fact that the price recommended by the Tariff Commission has been accepted by the producers of rubber for a period of 3 years?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** That is so; that is my information, any way.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question?