

(c) Why is this deviation in the case of Assam?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Because the general consumers of steel in that State are accustomed more to the Indian weights.

SALT (PRODUCTION AND EXPORT)

*690. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether Government propose to place on the Table of the House a statement showing the total production and export of salt from India for the last six months?

(b) How much has India earned out of this export during the above period?

(c) Are there prospects of our salt export expanding in the near future and if so, to which countries?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) A statement showing the desired information pertaining to the period April-September 1952 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 18].

(b) About Rs. 45 lakhs.

(c) Yes, provided quality is improved. Japan offers the best prospects. Other markets also are being explored.

Shri Nanadas: According to the statement, we have exported nearly 37 lakh maunds to Japan during the last six months. May I know from which salt producing centres this quantity has been exported to Japan?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Mostly from the West Coast: Saurashtra, Kutch and a small quantity from Tuticorin.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what steps Government have taken to improve the quality of salt produced in Bombay and Madras States so as to make it fit for export to Japan?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Government have laid down that the quality of salt should be improved from year to year. During this year, the percentage of sodium chloride is fixed at 93 per cent. and for the next year at 94 per cent. Every possible facility is given to the salt industry to improve the quality of salt in all areas.

Shri Nanadas: May I know how the quality and standard of our salt compares with that of Aden salt,

and how the prices of our salt compare with those of Aden salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry I cannot give the information offhand here.

Shri Nanadas: From the statement it is evident that we have not exported any salt to East Bengal from July onwards. What are the reasons? Is there any 'ban on our salt export?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is no ban now, since the last quarter of 1951. But, previous to that, since salt was not included in the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement, there was imposition of restrictions by both the Governments. But, even after the ban was removed and free licensing allowed, no improvement in the export of salt to Pakistan has been noticeable.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: Is the Government satisfied that the requirements of our country are fully met at reasonable prices before salt is exported to Japan and other countries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Raghavaiah wanted to put a question.

Shri Raghavaiah: I just wanted to...

Mr. Speaker: He need not put if he does not want. Next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: I wanted to.....

Mr. Speaker: Now, it is over. Next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: If you do not want to give me any chance.....

COTTON TEXTILES FUND COMMITTEE

*691. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is a body called the Cotton Textiles Fund Committee in existence?

(b) If so, what is its purpose, who are its members and for how long has it been working?

(c) Is it an official or non-official body?

(d) Do Government propose to place on the Table of the House a report on the working of the body since its inception?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes.

(b) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 19].

(c) It is a statutory body.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know the total amount of money in this Fund?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: About Rs. 2,33,00,000.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: In this statement, there is mention of an expenditure of about 18 lakhs for the starting of a research laboratory; what are the other items of expenditure?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have, I believe, given,—I cannot tell the exact amount—we did make a money contribution to what is called the SITRA—South India Textile Research Association. If the Bombay organisation also starts a research institute, we are committed to give them a contribution.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: What I wanted to know is this. In the last para. of the statement there is mention about certain officers enquiring about measures for stimulating exports. I want to know the expenditure incurred on that account.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The last para. of the statement says: "Measures taken for stimulating exports." If the hon. Member wants to know the expenditure we have incurred for this purpose out of this fund, I do not think we have incurred any expenditure out of the Fund yet.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: There is mention of an officer appointed by the Committee. I want to know the expenditure due to that officer.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I cannot quite comprehend what he means.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, an office is set up there as reference is made to an officer. What is the expenditure on account of that office?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not sure whether any amount has been spent. Possibly he is an officer belonging to the Textile Commissioner's office in which case no money was spent from the Fund.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

EXPORT OF ANIMALS AND REPTILES

*692. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the different kinds of Indian animals and reptiles exported to other countries in 1951-52 and the amount obtained by such exports?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Exports of living animals in 1951-52 have been recorded in official statistics under four heads namely:—

- (1) Horse
- (2) Cattle (excluding sheep and goat)
- (3) Sheep and goats
- (4) All other kinds

Exports of reptiles are not recorded separately.

The amount realised from the above export was Rs. 49,88,503.

Shri N. P. Sinha: No supplementaries.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are monkeys included?

Shri Karmarkar: I thought some hon. Members would be definitely interested in monkeys.....

An Hon. Member: A good question.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether it is a good question or a bad question. But, I see there are always some who want to put that question. I do not want to encourage that.

Shri Karmarkar: May I answer about monkeys, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: We go to the next question.

UTILISATION OF ENERGY IN WIND AND SUN'S RAYS

*693. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Scientists from nine countries, including India, was convened in England towards the end of September, 1952 to consider the ways and means of utilising the energy in the wind and the sun's rays; and

(b) whether the U.N.O. contemplates starting an experimental centre for utilising the energy in the wind and the sun's rays for mechanical purposes?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As far as Government are aware, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the U.N. at present.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Which are the countries that participated in the conference?

Shri Hathi: This was a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Arid Zone