

House had allowed by the introduction of the Bill and the collection of such a levy. That Bill contains a provision to that effect. Under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, the cess is being levied, and according to my information and my knowledge, it is perfectly legal, because the House has authorised the levy of the cess.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. members cannot be called upon to give opinions.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know the main grievances of the handloom weavers in Tamilnad, and what the Government have done or propose to do, to redress those grievances?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid that question must be directed to the Government which administers Tamilnad.

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know whether the Government are aware that there is an agitation in the country that mills must be prohibited from producing bordered dhoties, and if so, what is the opinion of the Government on this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No opinion need be asked. I think the hon. member means what action the Central Government have taken.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government are aware of some such agitation, and it is in response to that agitation perhaps that the Government have made the mills produce only 60 per cent. of their peak production of dhoties.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In the statement, the hon. Minister has stated that one of the steps taken is the formation of the Handloom Advisory Board at the Centre. May I know whether Government have in contemplation, the formation of provincial boards also? If so, what will be their constitution?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As soon as the funds are available, i.e. when this House puts its seal of imprimatur on the Bill for levying a cess on mill-cloth, it is the intention of this Government to ask the State Governments which are interested in the handloom industry, to constitute State Handloom Boards. And their constitution must be largely left to the States concerned. It is our intention to address them on that subject.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the Government are considering the feasibility of selling the handloom goods to the Government servants on longterm loans?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

TEA CHESTS

*1125. **Shri M. D. Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of tea chests manufactured in India and the number imported every year?

(b) Has the deterioration of tea industry affected the demand for tea chests and if so, how much?

(c) Is the present output of tea chests in India adequate to meet the demand of tea industry?

(d) If so, do Government propose to consider the question of stopping imports of foreign tea chests in order to protect the home tea chest industry?

(e) Is it a fact that imported foreign tea chests are in demand more by North Indian tea planters than by South Indian ones?

(f) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) To the extent that there may be a slight fall in the production of tea during 1953, there may be a proportionate reduction in the demand for tea chests.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). Government have no information that preference for imported tea chests is greater in North India than in the South.

STATEMENT

Tea Chests

	Production		Import	
	(Quantity in million sets).	Quantity (In million sets)	Quantity (In million sets)	Value (In Lakhs of Rs.)
1951	3.37	1.83**		1,25.36*
1952	4.35	1.51		92.25

*Value is for full year 1951.

**Quantity is being recorded only from April 1951. The figure given is only for 9 months i.e. April 1951 to December 1951.

Shri Karmarkar: Since the statement is brief, Sir, I should like to tell the House that during 1951 our production was 3.37 million sets and

in 1952, 4.35 million; and our imports were for the 9 months of 1951 from April 1-83 million and 1952, 1.51 million.

Shri M. D. Joshi: What is the cause of the deficient production? Is it that the requisite material is short or is it due to some other cause?

Shri Karmarkar: The tea-chest production is gradually increasing. There is no deficiency. We are trying to reach up to the full requirement.

Shri Aitekar: Which are the countries from which tea-chests are imported into India?

Shri Karmarkar: I should think largely from Finland.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know, Sir, what is the total cost of the imported tea-chests?

Shri Karmarkar: The value during, as I said, 9 months was Rs. 1,25,36,000, and in 1952 it was Rs. 92.25 lakhs.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, to what extent the deterioration of tea exported to foreign countries is due to tea-chests of bad quality manufactured in this country?

Shri Karmarkar: That grievance has now on hold. Our tea-chest quality has definitely improved.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, what is the landed cost of imported tea-chests and the price at the tea gardens in Assam?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said, the tea-chest imported in 1951 was 1.83 million sets valued at 125 lakhs. I think from that it can be calculated.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, how the price of imported tea-chests compares with that of those manufactured here?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the Minister is aware that large stocks of tea-chests are lying idle in some of the plywood factories because of no demand and whether the import of large stocks of tea-chests is responsible for this?

Shri Karmarkar: We are not aware of any tea-chests lying idle. They are there usefully. But there are about 2.0 million sets, we understood, with the tea gardens and with the manufacturers it was about 1.5 million sets.

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*1126. **Shrimati Shakuntala:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government of India have decided to concentrate on the development of certain cottage industries?

(b) If so, what are the industries selected?

(c) What steps are proposed to be taken to ensure their rapid development?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 4.]

Shri Dhulekar: Have Government prepared any informative books showing the cottage industries which will be concentrated and developed in particular districts or areas.

Shri Karmarkar: A survey has been made in some areas, but there is no detailed information showing district-wise the industries to be developed. The Board which is established for the purpose will go into the matter.

Shri Dhulekar: How many, if any, Finance corporations have been organised as envisaged in the Five-Year Plan and what will be the number of such Corporations in Uttar Pradesh?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to understand the relevance of that question under this question and then find out the material for the reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is there any scheme for a Cottage Industrial Finance Corporation? They want a separate Cottage Industrial Finance Corporation.

Shri Karmarkar: I do not think we have.....

Shri Dhulekar: There is a mention in the Planning Commission's Report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is such a thing contemplated?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, not immediately.

Shri G. P. Sinha: How many types of the industries which Government propose to develop are power-driven?

Shri Karmarkar: Which of these industries are power-driven?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has got as good an ear as I have.