

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The agitation for export comes from various quarters: from Chambers of Commerce and also from interested growers and it is also raised in the forum of legislative assemblies. It is very difficult to say what the motive power behind this demand for export is.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have taken any concrete steps to increase internal consumption of coffee, especially in non-coffee-consuming areas in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At the present moment, my headache seems to be that we are not able to meet the demand at reasonable prices.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is the increase in price due to fall in production or increase in consumption?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think there has been any appreciable fall in production. On the other hand, in spite of the fact that the coffee produced per acre is low in Madras and Mysore, the production has risen. Very possibly, we have to assume that the other alternative is the correct one.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

TRADE WITH CENTRAL ASIA

*1171. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India's trade with Central Asia over the mountainous route of Ladakh has practically stopped since September, 1949?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any steps to revive that trade?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sinkiang is a closed area to foreigners and local conditions there are not at present conducive to a revival of trade between India and Sinkiang.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government have any information about the Indian traders who had established themselves in Sinkiang before 1949?

Shri Karmarkar: Nothing has happened to Indian traders, except that trade has stopped.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Have they come to India, or are they still there?

Shri Karmarkar: We shall have to find out.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What was the volume of trade between India and Sinkiang before 1949?

Shri Karmarkar: I require notice.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: What were the reasons for the stoppage of the traffic and trade? Is the People's Government of China putting any obstruction in the way?

Shri Karmarkar: My hon. friend will be interested to know that as a result of the taking over of the province of Sinkiang by the People's Government of China towards the end of 1949, our Consulate-General at Kashgar which had been established there in December 1948 with the concurrence of the Nationalist Government of China had to stop functioning as the new Chinese Government refused to recognise it.

Shri Punnoose: What is the present position? Have we taken up that question with the People's Government of China?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir.

CLAIMS FOR C.P.W.D. WORKS AT STATIONS NOW IN PAKISTAN

*1173. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any claims of pre-partition period on account of works got done by the C.P.W.D. at stations now in Pakistan; and

(b) whether the Government of India have undertaken liability in respect of such claims or they are under dispute?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In this connection hon. Members' attention is invited to the Press Communique dated the 23rd May 1948, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 20.]

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know what was the amount of the claims?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Claims of the value of Rs. 41,25,000 have been registered so far with the Accountant-General.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know whether any claims have been settled by private negotiations or arbitration?

Sardar Swaran Singh: None, Sir.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know what amount of claims has been dismissed?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No claims have yet been dismissed out of the amount that I have indicated.

Shri Bahadur Singh: May I know whether there are any claims which have been admitted and which have not been paid?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Sir.

Shri Bahadur Singh: Is it a fact that some of the claims which have been verified by the Pakistan Government have not yet been paid or adjusted?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is rather a general question and if any specific claim is indicated I can make enquiries. But on the basis of the information available with me, I can say that there is no claim which has been verified by the Pakistan Government, and has not yet been paid.

Shri T. N. Singh: Can Government give any idea as to the claim made against the Pakistan Government—I mean the total claim made in this regard—or has no claim been made so far?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Obviously, that position will arise after payments have been made at our end.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that claims were sent to Pakistan for verification?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have you got replies from Pakistan?

Sardar Swaran Singh: To some, but not to all.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Out of the claims sent to them for verification, could we know what amount they have verified?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Actually, there appears to be some confusion on that point. It is not mainly for Governments to verify, but the verification has to take place through certain officers there, and in certain cases we can send our officers there to look up the records and verify, for themselves as to the existing state of affairs.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Are Government aware that certain contractors of goods who were asked to supply goods to stations now in Pakistan have not been paid, although the orders were placed by the then Government of India and Pakistan which was one?...

Sardar Swaran Singh: I won't be surprised if there is such a case.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: If so, what arrangements are Government going to make, to make payments to such claimants?

Sardar Swaran Singh: For that also, a decision has been taken; with regard to such contractual liabilities the same procedure is applicable, and they have to register their claims before a particular date, and such of them as have already registered their claims will be considered in consultation with the authorities in Pakistan.

Shri Gidwani: The Minister said that they are getting every facility from Pakistan to go and examine the records; if so, why has there been so much delay in settling all the claims so far?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I did not say that they give all the facilities for going there.

Shri Gidwani: You said that the officers can go and verify the records. You did say that. That is why, I want to know why there should have been so much delay. After all, it is now nearly five and a half years.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The facilities are not always available, and all times are not opportune for sending out officers.

PAPER MANUFACTURE FROM SABAI GRASS

*1174. **Shri Jajwara:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a large quantity of Sabai Grass is produced in damini areas of Santhal Parganas in Bihar?

(b) Is there any scheme to revive paper-making from this grass as a cottage industry?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes.

Shri Jajwara: Are Government aware that production of sabai grass in this area is gradually going down? if so, what is the reason therefor?