

THE
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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 8th May, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FOREIGN EXPERTS IN BHAKRA NANGAL
PROJECT

*1943. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. M. H. Slocum, Director, Construction and Plant Design, Bhakra Nangal Project has lately asked for some more experts to be imported for this Project; and

(b) the number of foreign experts already working on this Project and their annual bill charged to the works?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No. Sir.

(b) (i) 44.

(ii) Rs. 40,88,000/-

Sardar Hukam Singh: Could I know the number of Indian engineers that are assisting Mr. Slocum in the construction of this project?

Shri Hathi: There are about one hundred or even more. The total, I think, is 116 or so.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did Mr. Slocum or did he not make a complaint that the Indian engineers that he wanted were not given to him, and that those whom he did not approve of were thrust on him, and he was the sole traveller in the journey?

Shri Hathi: No, that is not the position. No engineers were thrust upon Mr. Slocum. He never made any selection by name of any particular person. He would say that he wanted a particular type of engineer with some qualifications, and those were given to him.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the latest estimate about the period for which these experts are to be retained?

Shri Hathi: May be four years or so.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it true that quarters of different designs have been constructed and are being constructed in Nangal for American engineers?

Shri Hathi: Quarters of different designs are not being constructed. There might be some difference in the accommodation, but not in the designs.

Shri Jasani: May I know the annual salary paid to Mr. Slocum and other experts engaged in this project?

Shri Hathi: They are 44 in number. If he wants, I can lay a statement on the Table of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has been asked so many times.

Shri Jasani: May I know whether that salary is taxable?

Shri Raghbir Sahai: When is the work likely to be finished?

Shri Hathi: The first phase will be over in 1955/56.

Shri Achuthan: What is the latest tendency in regard to foreigners in this project? Is it on the ascending or descending stage?

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know, Sir, the nationalities to which these experts belong?

Shri Hathi: Mostly they are Americans.

TRADE WITH TIBET

*1944. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether normal trade relations between Tibet and India have resumed;

(b) the approximate value of Tibetan goods imported into India in the year 1952-53; and

(c) the approximate value of Indian goods exported to Tibet during the above said period?

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

(a) There has been nothing abnormal with trade relations between Tibet and India in recent times.

(b) Rs. 71 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 227 lakhs.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Has any understanding been arrived at between the representatives of Tibet and India in regard to trade relations between the two countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not understand what the import of the question is. If he means whether it is on a Government to Government basis, no, Sir.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether licences have been issued for the export of cotton piece-goods to Tibet? If so, how much cloth will be supplied in 1953?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The limitation was formerly in the nature of quantity. We had a limit of 600 tons per year. But then, with the decontrol of distribution, that was changed and the Political Officer, Sikkim, is empowered to give licences to such persons as he thinks fit for a total quantity of about 1,000 tons.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What are the materials whose export to and import from Tibet are not allowed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can tell the hon. Member the materials that go into the trade. I cannot say what are not allowed.

Shri N. R. M. Swamy: What is the nature of the goods exported and imported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The bulk of the goods exported are cotton piecegoods, dyes, gur, iron, salt, sugar, foodstuffs, narcotics, hides and skins, metals, and there is an item called 'Miscellaneous' which must be made up of several items too small to be mentioned. Imports are wool, woollen yarn, woollen cloth, animal hair, carpets, skins, furs and livestock.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the licences between India and China for goods are issued through our Political Officer at Sikkim and whether he is recognized by the Chinese Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is not a question of India and China. The question relates only to Tibet. There is no question of recognition of the Political Agent by the Chinese Government. If he recommends issue of licences, licences are issued. It is a mere matter of procedure.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को ज्ञात है कि पश्चिमी तिब्बत में हमारे व्यापारियों को अनेक प्रकार के कर देने पड़ते हैं। यदि उनको ज्ञात है तो इस सम्बन्ध में कोई लिखा पढ़ी की गई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) : जो कर देने पड़ते हैं उन के बारे में हमारे पास कोई रिप्रेजेंटेशन नहीं आया है।

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether it is because of the non-availability of goods that such goods are imported, or because of their quality?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend does not understand that trade is a thing which flows, and is governed by laws of demand and supply. If the people need goods and they come in, all that we can do is either to put a ban or regulate or allow them to come in freely. In this case, goods are more or less allowed to flow freely both ways.

INDIANS EMPLOYED IN CEYLON

*1945. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ceylon has or is going to amend her immigration law to prohibit foreigners on visit from taking up employment or business in the island;

(b) the number of Indians there at present in employment or in business;

(c) whether the Government of India had any correspondence with the Government of Ceylon about the future employment of Indians and also about the business to be carried there by Indians; and

(d) if so, with what results?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No. A person proceeding to Ceylon on a visa has, however, to make, *inter alia*, a declaration on his application that he shall not engage himself in any employment on arrival in Ceylon.

(b) Figures are not available.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any fresh correspondence is going on with the Ceylon Government on the apprehension that such amendments may be brought in?