

Shri Raghavaiah: The hon. Minister said that the Government have agreed with the recommendations of the All-India Mica Advisory Board. Does it mean that the export of scrap mica should be banned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir. Not yet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CITIZENSHIP OF INDIANS IN CEYLON

***666. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India have sent any further communication to the Ceylon Government on the question of claims of persons of Indian origin to Ceylonese citizenship?

(b) If so, has any reply been received from the Ceylon Government?

(c) What is the nature of the reply?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). There has been exchange of correspondence between the two Governments on the question of citizenship of persons of Indian origin in Ceylon. No reply has yet been received to our latest communication.

O. G. L. FOR PRECIOUS STONES

***674. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Jaipur Chamber of Commerce had made a representation to Government to include rough precious and synthetic stones under the Open General Licence so that there may be sufficient raw materials for the lapidarists' industry in Jaipur?

(b) Have Government considered their representation?

(c) If so, what is the decision?

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

(b) and (c). The import of these items has been liberalised. A copy of the Public Notice dated the 22nd January, 1953, issued in this regard, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 9.]

QUESTIONNAIRE ON COTTON CONTROL

***677. Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Control Inquiry Committee had issued a 539 PSD

questionnaire soliciting the views regarding the present cotton controls prevailing in the country;

(b) whether the date of receiving replies to the questionnaire has expired; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action, if any, Government have taken or propose to take in view of the replies received?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Presumably, the hon. Member is referring to the Textile Inquiry Committee. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

BIRTHDAY CEREMONY OF GURU HAR RAI

***678. Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permission was sought from the Government of Pakistan in the month of January, 1953 by the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee of India to attend the birthday ceremony of Guru Har Rai, the Seventh Guru and the same was refused by the Government of Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above-mentioned Committee had sought the assistance of the Government of India in this respect; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to make a statement giving the reasons for the said refusal by the Pakistan Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. According to the agreed procedure, requests for permission for pilgrimages are transmitted by one Government to the other.

(c) The Pakistan Government merely regretted "their inability to make necessary arrangements for the pilgrimage". They did not give any reasons.

BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

***680. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the work in regard to the Project at Bhakra;

(b) whether it is according to the original estimates and calculations of