

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The estimated quantity is 30,000 tons. As to how much has been exploited, there is no information. The matter was taken in hand at a time when sulphur was scarce and sulphur prices were high because we were getting certain quantities of sulphur from outside owing to allocations made by the International Materials Conference. Now that sulphur supplies are easy, I am afraid this matter of exploiting Pyrites has been slowed down because of considerable accumulation of stocks at the pit-head.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I find from the commercial intelligence statistics published by the Commerce Ministry that the export of manganese ore has increased from 51,288 tons to 80,293 tons in 1951. May I know whether this increase in export has been due to the reciprocal arrangement on account of the wheat loan?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I may add that the export has increased further to 1,268,000 tons. That is the latest figure we have on record. There is no such barter arrangement with any country.

RAIDING OF SHRI NAG'S HOUSE

*770. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that on the 16th December 1952 some miscreants raided the house of Shri Debendra Chandra Nag at Gavigaon under Chunarghat Police Station in Habiganj Sub-Division and carried away forcibly Mukulrani, wife of Shri Nag?

(b) Is it a fact that the police were informed and a case was instituted against the alleged abductors in Habiganj Court but nothing has come out?

(c) Do Government propose to take drastic steps to check such happenings and create confidence in the minorities?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). A complaint to this effect was received by the Minister for Minority Affairs from Shri Debendra Chandra Nag and the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan on 7th January, 1953. The Government of Pakistan have informed that the matter has been taken up with the authorities concerned. Their final reply is awaited.

(c) According to diplomatic procedure, we can protest about such cases to the Government of Pakistan and request early action. That has been done.

LAC INDUSTRY

*772. **Shri Jajware:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state in view of the gradual deterioration of the lac industry in India what specific steps are Government taking for the regulation of Forward Contracts, banning of speculation in shellac, and stabilising its price to save this cottage industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The question of bringing forward trading in shellac and seedlac within the purview of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952, is under consideration. The question of stabilising the prices of this commodity by fixing minimum and maximum prices statutorily is not considered feasible.

Shri Jajware: Is it a fact, Sir, that shellac worth ten to twelve crores are exported every year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Shellac exports, Sir, I have got in tonnage. In 1951-52 it was 24,736 tons and in the previous year 21,460 tons.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: It is generally found that the price of shellac appears to be fluctuating to a very large extent. Has Government thought of any measures to stop it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, it is a fact that the price is fluctuating very largely. In January 1952, it was Rs. 130 per md. and this year it is Rs. 73. The only way in which Government could perhaps try to stabilise prices is to control forward trading in this commodity, because this is a commodity which, essentially, depends on its price upon the export offers that it gets; and it happens that India has not got a monopoly of the supply of this commodity today because Siam also exports this commodity.

Shri T. N. Singh: Have Government ever considered the suggestion of utilising shellac here locally by our industries? Has anything been done in this matter?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I believe to the extent that it is possible shellac is used; particularly in some of the electrical industries, it is being done. But any further expansion of internal utilisation of shellac would depend upon the development of industries in which this can be utilised.

Shri Jasani: Have any recommendations been made by the Shellac Committee for banning forward trading in this commodity?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. That is, the Indian Lac Committee have recommended that forward trading should be banned, and there has been a ban for a period. What the Government now are considering is whether to bring forward trading in this commodity within the scope of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act.

Shri T. N. Singh: Are our methods of exploitation of shellac here costly or is it due to some other reasons that we are not able to compete with the foreign product?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Which are the countries where synthetic lac is being produced as a substitute for this lac?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like notice.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir how our shellac compares with that of Siam?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have really no information, Sir.

DEFENCE OF AFRICAN LEADERS

***774. Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India had anything to do with the defence of those African leaders who are being prosecuted on charges of having association with the Mau-Mau Society?

(b) Did the Government of Kenya ban the entry of a defence lawyer from India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The Government of India had nothing to do with the defence of African leaders who are being prosecuted in connection with the activities of the Mau Mau Society of East Africa. At the request of the Kenya African Union, Dewan Chamanlal, accompanied by Shri Tarlok Nath Sethi, advocate of the Supreme Court of India, went to Nairobi, in December last for the defence of these African leaders. While Dewan Chamanlal was allowed to take part in the defence of the African leaders, Mr. Sethi was not. Mr. Sethi was allowed to stay in East Africa for only a fortnight.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know the reason why Mr. Sethi was not allowed to take part in this defence?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We were informed by the British Colonial Office that Mr. Sethi and the other gentleman had not the requisite documents with them, nor were they engaged by the accused or instructed to appear on behalf of the defence.

Shri N. P. Sinha: Is it under contemplation that Mr. Sethi will go again with proper credentials?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Government have got nothing to do with this matter.

Shri N. P. Sinha: Are there Indians also involved in the trial?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Not in this trial.

EXPORT TRADE PUBLICITY

***775. Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what amount was spent by India during the financial year 1951-52 over export trade publicity through exhibitions and fairs abroad?

(b) In which exhibitions and where did India take part for such publicity?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Rs. 2,32,118-2-9 excluding items 5 to 8 in the statement placed on the Table with reference to part (b) of the question for which expenditure was met by the Indian Missions concerned. The figures will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 32.]

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether the Exhibition Special Officer has visited other countries, and if so, what amount has been spent on his travelling and other allowances?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the Exhibition Special Officer visits countries where an exhibition is held, and naturally, Sir, the cost of his travelling and other expenses would be included in the cost mentioned by me.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) ACT

***776. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948?

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