

(b) What was the amount of exchange gained by the export of this commodity?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 15.]

**Shri Jasani:** From the statement it is known that about 330 lakh tons scrap were exported to foreign countries annually. May I know why this was not utilised in our country when the re-rolling industry is suffering for want of scrap?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to make a correction. It is not annually, it is for the year 1952.

**Shri Jasani:** Why is it not utilised in our country when the re-rolling industry is suffering for want of scrap?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am afraid, Sir, my hon. friend's information is wrong. We are taking all steps to secure ample supplies for internal consumption. The difficulty is there are no electric furnaces to absorb the total scrap iron available in the country. We wish to see that our consumers do not suffer. At the present moment our Iron and Steel Controller is not issuing licences normally for export. We are reviewing the position.

**Shri V. P. Nayyar:** May I know whether Government are taking any steps to utilise the entire scrap iron, in India, for making up the deficiency of iron and steel in the country?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Sir, Government are considering the installation of electric furnaces near Bhakra Nangal and Hirakud where cheap electricity can be available after the hydro-electric projects are completed.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know, out of the total figure for 1952 which has been given, which country has made the biggest bulk purchase?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The figures are there in the statement Japan 155,661 tons, next Italy 101,224 tons and then comes U.K. 51,785 tons.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Is it a fact, Sir, that as a result of the exports, the scraps are selling in India at higher prices than in the countries to which they have been exported?

**Shri Karmarkar:** We are not aware of that, Sir.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know, Sir, whether large quantities of scrap were

exported simply because there is no furnace here?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The scrap iron available in the country was far more than what was needed for internal consumption with the result that we have exported and by the export we get valuable foreign exchange.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** Do we import raw material for steel production in this country?

**Shri Karmarkar:** So far as I think, 'No'.

**सरदार ए० एस० सहगल:** क्या सरकार फरनेस बनाने के लिये जो दूसरे लोग और फर्मस ज्यादा उत्पाहित हैं उनको यह काम देने की कृपा करेगी?

**श्री करमकर:** अगर इस काम को अंडरटेक करने के लिये हमें वाकई रिलाय-बुल और उत्पाहित लोग मिलेंगे, तो हम जरूर उनको यह काम देंगे।

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is Government aware, Sir, that a huge amount of scrap iron and steel is lying idle in the Andamans? Have Government in contemplation any plan to collect that for proper utilisation?

**Shri Karmarkar:** If there is a lot of scrap in the Andamans and if it is useful for any purpose, the Government will be happy to utilise it.

#### SLUMP IN MICA INDUSTRY

**\*879. Shri Jajwre:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the reasons for the slump in the Mica Industry and what specific steps the Government of India are taking to stabilise it?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** There is no evidence of any real slump in the mica industry. Leaving out 1951-52, the period of stock-piling, when there was an unusual rush to obtain supplies, the overall level of exports has been fairly well-maintained.

With the disappearance of a sellers' market, there is no doubt a demand from buyers that supplies should be made according to higher standards of quality.

For stabilising the industry, Government have been advised that the quality for export should be improved by adopting a universal standard for grading mica. Action is being taken

in this direction. Other suggestions include:—

(i) creation of a central organisation for taking over export operations,

(ii) imposition of a ban on export of scrap mica; and

(iii) promotion of research work to encourage use of mica in the country.

These suggestions are at present being examined.

**Shri Jajware:** May I know, Sir, what percentage of the produce has been exported to the foreign countries?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Very nearly all, Sir.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether Government are taking any steps for the utilisation of mica in India, especially in electrical industries, and thus preventing the dependence of the industry on the whims and caprices of exporters?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Sir, the question of the utilisation of mica would arise if electrical industries are started on large scale. Such of the industries as require mica are using it but they are not comparable with on export figures. Our internal consumption is very small indeed.

**Shri Kelappan:** May I know, Sir, how the export of scrap mica affects adversely the export of mica splittings and mica blocks?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The hon. Member asked a similar question on a previous occasion which I answered. It is contended by some people that export of scrap mica would ultimately adversely affect export of mica, because it is understood that in certain countries the scrap mica is powdered and mica sheets are synthetically manufactured. I did mention to the hon. Member at that time that considering the very small quantity of export of scrap mica from our country and also because of the fact that scrap mica is available elsewhere in the world, we felt that the question ought to be examined further. That examination is now being conducted.

**Shri Nanadas:** May we know, Sir, whether Government have explored any new markets for mica in Hungary, Russia and other countries?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I suppose, Sir, some markets exist. We do export, I think, now and again, some mica to U.S.S.R. But I am not aware, Sir, of the possibility of market in other countries.

**Shri N. P. Sinha:** The hon. Minister just now said that Government is contemplating the establishing of a Central Marketing Board. By what time is the Board proposed to be constituted?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am afraid the hon. Member did not catch me right. I merely said some people have made those proposals which are being scrutinised.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** May I know whether mica exports to Japan have reached, or are likely to reach, pre-war level?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to have notice of that question.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Arising out of the answer to my supplementary question, may I know how much of mica is consumed by indigenous industries and what is the proportion of that mica to the total production in this country?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to have notice of that question.

**Shri Gopala Rao:** In view of the fact that this is a most valuable strategic material, may I know whether Government contemplate using this material in our own country for the development of industries?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The question put by my hon. friend Mr. V. P. Nayar has been asked in a different manner. If electrical industries in this country grow, naturally a greater portion of the mica produced in this country will be absorbed.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** Is Government aware that many of the mica mines have already stopped production in Bihar, because they are not getting markets?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The answer to the question itself does not seem to accept that proposition.

#### GERMAN EXPERT FOR ENQUIRY ABOUT AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

\*881. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the terms and conditions on which the German Expert has been appointed by the Government of India to assist the Tariff Commission in its enquiry about the Automobile Industry?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** I lay on the Table of the House a