

Shri K. K. Basu: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a memorandum published by the ex-Indian employees of these British concerns as to the unsatisfactory nature of the question of employment?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know to which memorandum the hon. Member refers. There are several memoranda which we have received. I do not think there is any association of employees of British concerns in India. Therefore I cannot recollect having received any authoritative communication of the sort indicated by the hon. Member.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether from the replies received it is possible to say whether, in fact, there is any discrimination in the matter of pay scales and other conditions of service between Indians and foreigners employed in those firms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The questionnaire was framed in such a manner as to merely indicate the number in each category. We have not asked for the information which will reveal the position as is envisaged by the hon. Member.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to a circular issued by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the issue of this questionnaire, directing its clients to send replies in such a manner as not to reveal the real position of the Indians under their employ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, I have not seen any such circular.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Why was the questionnaire not prepared in such a way as to elicit the information required to be brought out?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I agree there is some imperfection in regard to the framing of the questionnaire as my hon. friend thinks, because the way in which he is looking at it, and the way in which I was looking at it, are slightly different. From my point of view, I thought the questionnaire was satisfactory.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: May I know whether Government have examined the conditions under which Indian business firms are permitted to operate in some of the major countries in the world whose nationals are having firms, functioning in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a suggestion for action which might be taken at the appropriate time.

Shri Gadgil: May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in legislation to secure statutorily Indianization of foreign firms with good working condition?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As far as Government's thoughts in this matter can be projected into the future, Government have no such intention.

Shri K. K. Basu: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that foreign technicians with much inferior qualifications than that of Indians are employed under the head "technicians"?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It may be true in the case of certain individual concerns. Government have no reason to believe that this is generally the case.

Shri Damodara Menon: The hon. Minister stated that some firms have not sent replies. Do the Government propose to take any action against those firms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Such action as the Government is competent to take, it is taking.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know what action Government are competent to take?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that particularly in tea gardens there are certain kinds of allowances like garden allowances, transport and servants allowances which are not covered in the questionnaire, and is Government contemplating setting out a separate questionnaire particularly in regard to European managed tea gardens?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think, Sir, I have told the House on a previous occasion—and I think the hon. Member who is asking the question is aware of it—that the Government have introduced a Bill to enable them to call for statistics of any nature that they think is necessary. When that Bill is passed by this House and by the other House and is put on the Statute Book, I have no doubt the suggestion made by the hon. Member would be considered and information would be asked for on those lines.

EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

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

(a) how the external publicity of the Ministry expanded in 1952-53 in comparison with the previous two years;

(b) how many and in which centres new publicity posts have been created in the current financial year; and

(c) how many of them are lying vacant at present?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The budget provision for external publicity has increased as follows:—

1950-51	Rs. 30,25,840	(Actual)
1951-52	Rs. 37,58,100	(Revised estimates)
1952-53	Rs. 64,74,800	(Revised estimates)

During the current year, there has been an expansion of publicity through the medium of films, reference libraries, exhibitions of Indian art and the issue of pamphlets and other publicity material. Publicity organisations in the U.S.A. and the Middle East have been reorganised and the omnibus service has been expanded. Supply of photographs, blocks, features, etc., for publicity purposes has been improved.

(b) Two new publicity posts, viz. at Damascus and Bonn have been opened. It is intended to open two more.

(c) None.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether in spite of this expansion we are not able to supply adequate and suitable publicity material to our missions abroad?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a matter of opinion, but so far as we are concerned, we believe, Sir, we are able to supply adequately and satisfactorily the necessary literature and information to our missions abroad.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the arrangements for the contradiction of adverse reports that are published in foreign newspapers have improved?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Certainly, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the method of distribution of Indian newspapers and periodicals through our publicity posts overseas has improved?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Considerably large number of Indian periodicals and newspapers are being sent to our missions abroad.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Is there any machinery for co-ordination between the Information Ministry and this section of external publicity?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: These two Ministries work in close co-operation.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that exhibitions and such other things have been arranged. May I know whether during 1952 and 1953 any exhibitions of a representative character, of Indian paintings, sketches, photographs, etc., have been held?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir. They have been exhibited in America and in other areas—in China, in Japan, Australia and also in the United Kingdom.

STANDARD OF EXPORTED ARTICLES

*205. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there exists any machinery to see that exports from India to U. K. and other countries are strictly according to the standards of samples previously submitted?

(b) If not, what steps do Government propose to take to ensure that the quality and standard of exported articles and commodities are not lowered?

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

(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) A scheme of compulsory quality control is already in operation in respect of a few commodities, such as sann hemp, unmanufactured tobacco and rum. In regard to other commodities it is for buyers and sellers to make their own arrangements according to commercial practice in each line.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if any complaint has been made by any country in connection with the bad quality of some of our exports?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a complaint one constantly hears in regard to various commodities.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know the names of the countries from which complaints have been received, and the commodities in respect of which they have been received?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I should ask for notice.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Have the Government of India received any complaint from the United States merchants regarding the quality of pepper exported from India, and have they verified the correctness of this allegation or tried to find out whether this is deliberately made in order to lower the prices of pepper purchased in United States?