

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** There was one on Mahatma Gandhi's life.

TRADE MISSION TO AUSTRALIA

\*1544. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Trade Mission was sent to Australia in order to expand the marketing of Jute goods in that country;

(b) when was that Mission sent; and

(c) who were the members?

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

(b) 16th April, 1953.

(c) The Delegation is led by Shri L. K. Jha, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and includes the following representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta:—

1. Mr. J. G. Walton.
2. Mr. D. P. Goenka.

**Shri Buchhikotaiah:** May I know how many such agreements were signed, and with which countries?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is too wide a question. It does not arise out of this.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Australia was an important market for Indian jute. What were the reasons why the export to Australia declined by 50 per cent.?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** For one thing, Australia was in difficulties in regard to her foreign exchange, and she drastically cut down her imports. Secondly, they took to bulk handling, which means a very heavy cut in their consumption of jute goods.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know, Sir, whether this delegation has been sent at the cost of the Indian Jute Mills' Association or at the cost of the Government of India?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** So far as the Government of India's representative is concerned, their expenditure would be to the account of the Central Government exchequer. So far as the others are concerned, they will find their own money for their expenses.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether any interim report has been submitted by the Mission?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I just heard, Sir, that the delegation has reached Sydney.

**Shri N. Sreekantam Nair:** May I know, Sir, whether this delegation would explore the possibilities of coir export from India?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** No, Sir. They are only going for jute, not for coir.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether this Mission will visit any other country?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Only Australia.

**Shri Nanadas and Shri G. P. Sinha rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us go to the next question.

COTTAGE INDUSTRY EXPERIMENTAL UNITS

\*1545. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of cottage industry experimental units started by the Central Government?

(b) Where are these centres located and when have they been started?

(c) What is the annual expenditure incurred on each of these Centres?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). So far as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is concerned, only one experimental Unit was started in 1950 at Harduaganj and that has since been closed down.

(c) In view of above the information is nil.

2. Information in respect of similar units, under the Ministries of Rehabilitation and Food and Agriculture, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Shri M. R. Krishna:** May I know, Sir, the reasons that led to the closing of the centre which was started first?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It was found, Sir, that the institution was not serving any useful purpose.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know, Sir, whether Government is contemplating to start new centres?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Sir, Government have under consideration several proposals in regard to helping small scale industries. It may be, Sir, when the proposals mature, it will be necessary for us either to start new

centres on our own or do it in collaboration with other Ministries or do it in collaboration with the States.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know, Sir, whether such centres started by the Rehabilitation and Food Ministries are working satisfactorily?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am unable to give any information, Sir. That question must be put to the Minister concerned.

**Shri M. R. Krishna:** May I know, Sir, whether any foreign nationals are working in any of these experimental centres?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Since there are no experimental centres now in existence, Sir, there is no case of foreign nationals working there.

**Shri Balakrishnan:** May I know whether any financial aid is given to newcomers in cottage industries?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** That is a different question altogether. It has no concern with experimental centres.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, the names of cottage industries that were taken under this experimental scheme and the reasons for the failure of the scheme?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It is a long story, Sir. If the hon. Member will put down a question, I shall give him the details. The reason really was the lack of co-ordination between the unit and people concerned. In fact, it had a very chequered history. There had been a lot of opposition to this institution and ultimately we found that we were merely spending the taxpayers' money by keeping the institution going. If it is at all revived, it must be revived in a different form.

#### PEGGING OF COAL

\*1546, **Dr. Hari Mohan:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the reasons for issue of the recent order for pegging Grade I and Grade II low volatile coal?

(b) Is such coal economically suitable for metallurgical purpose either by blending or by washing?

(c) Is it a fact that domestic coke is manufactured mostly out of Grade II coal and pegging of such coal would affect the interests of public consumers?

(d) Are Government aware that pegging of such coal might affect coal out-put in near future?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) There were two main reasons. Firstly the reserves of Grade I and Grade II low volatile coking coal are limited. Secondly, the selected Grade collieries whose out-put alone was "pegged" in the first instance, were prohibited from increasing their production of Grade I and Grade II low volatile coal to make up for the reduction in their selected Grades A and B coal. This operated as discrimination against such collieries, as collieries producing only Grade I and Grade II low volatile coal were free to increase their out-put without any limit. Government therefore considered it desirable to treat all such collieries on the same basis.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Domestic coke is manufactured mostly out of Grade II and Grade III coal. The pegging of Grade II low volatile coal will not affect the interests of public consumers, as the limit fixed is the same as the 1952 level of production, which was ample for the purpose.

(d) No, it will not affect coal out-put, as the intention is to offset the reduction in the production of low volatile coal by an increase in the production of non-metallurgical coal.

**Dr. Hari Mohan:** May I know, Sir, if the output of Grades I and II coal in the railway collieries—the figures for—is going to be pegged on the same principle i.e. on the figures of 1952.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I did not follow the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think he wants to know the output in the railway collieries of Grade I and II coal in the year 1952.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** Railway Collieries? I am sorry I have not got the figures here. I should like to have notice.

**Shri Ramananda Das:** May I know whether this pegging of coal has caused unemployment to the coalminers?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** No, Sir. We are taking care to see that this pegging policy does not bring about any serious dislocation of labour.

#### RE-ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO CEYLON

\*1547. **Shri Thanu Pillai:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians, normally resident in Ceylon, who have been refused re-entry into Ceylon since the passing of the Indian and Pakistani