

State Governments for which their recommendations have been invited?

Shri Hathi: No allotments have yet been made. Only their recommendations have been invited.

Shri Kelappan: May I know how many new projects are proposed to be undertaken?

Shri Hathi: Fifty-five blocks.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In view of the fact that territories in our North-East frontier have not been served, is priority going to be given to our frontier province in the North-East?

Shri Hathi: That will also be taken into consideration.

STATE-OWNED ORGANISATION FOR HANDLING EXPORT TRADE

*328. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the recommendations of the Committee set up to examine the question of setting up a State-owned or State-sponsored organisation for handling any sector of the foreign trade has been found to be acceptable to Government;

(b) whether the two-man small committee appointed to make a quick examination and to review the position in the light of developments, particularly the falling markets and the uncertain trends in India's International trade, have submitted their report;

(c) if so, the steps taken or likely to be taken by Government to implement the recommendations; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the report of this reviewing committee?

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

(a) The recommendations of the State Trading Committee set up in 1949 were examined by Government and it was considered that they required to be reviewed in the light of present changed conditions. A smaller Committee has accordingly been set up to make a further examination of the problem.

(b) No, Sir. The Committee is still at work.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What is the time which has elapsed since the ap-

pointment of this Committee which had to finish its labours quickly?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Roughly about six months, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the enquiries made so far have revealed the profits made by foreign enterprise handling India's foreign trade?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think that comes within the terms of reference to this Committee.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know the composition of this Committee?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao, M.P. and Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala, M.P. constitute the Committee.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I know by what time it is expected that the Committee will finish its labours?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, I presume it will be in another six to eight weeks.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know the reasons for the falling markets and uncertain trends in India's international trade?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri M. D. Ramasami: In view of the setback in the trade of handloom cloth in foreign markets is it the intention of Government to set up a state-owned or state-sponsored institution for that trade?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether a separate institution or corporation for the export trade of handloom cloth is proposed to be set up.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, for one thing the All-India Handloom Board is now seized of this matter. Of course suggestions are made, there are suggestions galore in regard to the manner in which exports should be handled. At the moment we have not before us any serious proposal for setting up a corporation.

GRANTS FOR PROMOTION OF SALES ABROAD.

*329. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants similar to that made to the Indian Jute Mills Association to assist their publicity Campaign in U.S.A. have been made or offered by the Government of India for the promotion of the sale of any other Indian commodity in U.S.A. or in any other foreign country; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the details of such grants made in 1950 and 1951 and made or offered in 1952?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes. Contributions have been made in the past to the International Tea Market Expansion Board for the promotion of sale of tea in overseas countries.

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

India's contribution to the International Tea Market Expansion Board.

Year (1st October to 30th Sept.)	Amount (Rs.)
1949-50	56,17,218
1950-51	36,73,469
1951-52	61,23,400

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the decline in the exports of coir and the consequent unemployment of lakhs of people in Travancore-Cochin State, may I know Sir whether Government have taken any steps for the promotion of the sale of coir and coir goods such as mats and mattings in foreign countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir, we have asked all our Trade Commissioners to bestow some attention to this matter, and I am glad to say that the position is not as bad as it was about eight or nine months back. We include coir in the trade agreements. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that it is proposed to bring before this House a Bill in order to set up a statutory Coir Board to deal with all problems relating to coir, both the sale of coir internally and abroad.

Shri V. P. Nayar: A part from writing to our various Trade Commissioners is concerned, may I know whether any actual grant has been made for the promotion of sale of coir?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If a grant has been made to any external organisation it would have found a place in the statement I have placed on the Table of the House.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Arising out of the statement laid on the Table, may I

know the machinery through which the Rs. 61 and odd lakhs are spent?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The International Tea Market Expansion Board.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know who are the members of the Board for carrying on this propaganda campaign for selling tea in the United States and whether Government is making some contribution to that organisation for carrying on propaganda?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid my hon. friend had missed the answers which were given on the floor of the House. A Tea Council has been set up in the United States in collaboration with the tea trade in the United States and with the Governments of Indonesia and Ceylon. The membership of the Board will be 6 Members for the countries who participate in it financially and 6 Members of the tea trade. The contribution that India would give under the present arrangement will be 450,000 dollars.

PURCHASE OF KHADI BY GOVERNMENT

*331. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the policy of Government regarding the purchase of Khadi for their cloth requirements?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The policy of Government is to encourage the use of khadi for Government purposes as far as this is feasible consistently with the specialised needs of the different services and a reasonable degree of economy.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the value of the annual cloth requirements of the Central Government and the extent to which these requirements are met from Khadi.

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

Shri Dabhi: May I know what prevents Government from meeting most of their cloth requirements from khadi?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If any reasons do operate, Sir, against the use of khadi to the extent my hon. friend wants, the reasons have been stated in the answer to the question.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know what steps Government are taking to encourage the produce and use of khadi?