

EXPORT TO FIJI

*1058. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Colonial Government in Fiji imposed any restriction or restrictions on the import of cotton textiles, artificial silk cloth, cement and safety matches etc. into Fiji; and

(b) the value in Rupees of the exports in cotton textiles, artificial silk, cement and safety matches etc., to Fiji in the years 1951 and 1952?

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

(a) If the reference is to Indian goods the reply is in the negative.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 12.]

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know, Sir, whether our exports are meeting the market demands in Fiji?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, I have no information.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether Japan is our rival in the Fiji and South-East Asian markets?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is possible, but I should like to have notice, Sir.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Government is taking any steps to improve our exports to Fiji islands?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the same way as we do with regard to other countries, through the medium of our diplomatic representatives.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Fiji Government has export duties under two heads, 'standard' and 'preference'?

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

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether we have any Trade Commissioner in Fiji; if we have not any, who is in charge of the Fiji islands?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to verify the position, Sir. If the hon. Member puts down a question I will answer.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*1059. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are

the cottage industries, to the development of which, Government have decided to give top priority, and what actual steps do they propose to take with a view to develop these industries and also to protect them from the competition of large scale industries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 13.]

Shri Madiah Gowda: May I know whether any training centre for the training of personnel has been started and, if so, where and to train in what industry?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, to go beyond what is stated in the statement, I should like to have notice.

Shri Madiah Gowda: Sir, I wish to know whether anything has been done to encourage village *gannies* and to protect them from large-scale oil manufacturing factories?

Shri Karmarkar: The Village Industries Board set up by the Ministry will look into the question.

Shri Madiah Gowda: Has anything been done so far?

Shri Karmarkar: Nothing material has been done.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it proposed to impose levies on the machine-made goods to raise money for the encouragement of these cottage industries as is being done in the case of hand-loom industry?

Shri Karmarkar: Perhaps the hon. Member is doubtless aware that we propose to levy a cess of 3 pies per yard on mill-made cloth with a view to encourage hand-made cloth.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know about all industries.

Shri Karmarkar: We have none. I would require notice.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether any special priority has been given to the leather manufacturing industry?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, the priorities that have been given to hand-made industries are to sports goods, glass-ware, footwear and leather goods. It is there in the statement.

Shri Raghavaiah: From the statement I find that there are two Boards constituted for the development of Khadi and hand-loom industries.