

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether it is due to the deficiency in sugar that we are allowing foreign imports or it is to bring down the present prices?

Shri Kidwai: We had a large carry-over last year, i.e. about 5 lakh tons, and this year production was also above the average, though a little less than last year. Therefore, we thought that 18 lakh tons of sugar should be more than sufficient. But on account of the rise of *gur* prices in the south—where it went up to Rs. 28—more sugar was consumed, and we have found that the money invested in sugar this year is not larger than last year. Therefore, we think consumption has gone up, and not hoarding.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO MALAYA

***1. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government of India in connection with the restrictions on the entry into Malaya of Commonwealth citizens particularly Indians which are likely to be imposed as a result of an immigration ordinance, as declared by Shri J. L. J. Haxworth, Colony Controller of Immigration, at Singapore on the 27th March, 1953; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the reasons which have necessitated the issue of an ordinance particularising Indians' entry into Malaya and if so, what they are?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) All possible steps are being taken to safeguard the legitimate interests of Indian nationals residing in Malaya. Attention of the Malayan authorities has also been drawn to the difficulties that are likely to be experienced by fresh entrants under the Immigration Ordinances which are to be brought into force by the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and the Colony of Singapore from 1st August this year. The matter will be pursued further after ascertaining the

views of local Indian Chamber of Commerce.

(b) The Ordinances apply not only to Indian nationals but also to nationals of all Commonwealth countries, including citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. So far as Government of India are aware, the Colonial Governments in the Peninsula considered it necessary to impose a general restriction with a view to protecting the interests of their permanent residents including Indians.

FOREIGN TRADE THROUGH INDIA

***2. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign countries whose external trade commodities pass through the territories of India;

(b) whether the passage of the said commodities through Indian territories is regulated by any agreement with the respective foreign countries; and

(c) whether any benefit, financial or otherwise, is derived by India for giving passage to the trade commodities of other countries?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when, and in so far as it is, available.

SALE OF CURTIS COMMANDOS AND SPARE PARTS

***3. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for the sale of the seventy Curtis Commandos and their spare parts has been finalised;

(b) if so, whether the export of the spare parts has already begun;

(c) whether it is a fact that exemption from the existing ban upon the export of aeroplanes and their spare parts has been provided in the sole contract to enable the purchase firm to export aeroplane spare parts from this country;

(d) the total amount involved in the contract; and

(e) the total amount of paid up capital of the contracting firm?

The Deputy Minister of works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The export is expected to take place some time towards the end of August or beginning of September.

(c) Yes, Sir. The purchaser is free to export all the 70 aircraft and spares.

(d) The total amount involved in the contract, i.e. the sale value of the planes and spare parts, is Rs. 59 lakhs. Out of this, Government hold a deposit of Rs. 6,57,625 as earnest money and the contracting firm have opened a Letter of Credit for Rs. 33,04,000 on the Imperial Bank of India to be encashed on the shipment of 90 per cent. of spare parts.

(e) It has been ascertained that the paid up capital is Rs. 50,000.

SERICULTURE

*4. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any special grant has been given to any State Government by the Centre for the development of the sericulture industry?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): The Central Government have been making lump-sum grants to the Central Silk Board which was set up in 1948, under the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, to assist and develop sericulture industry in India. The Board, in turn, has made grants-in-aid to the Governments of the various Sericultural States for the implementation of their schemes for the development of sericulture. Statements of these grants are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 8.]

IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*5. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received the resolution passed by the West Bengal Assembly on the 27th

April, 1953, to devise ways and means for improving the relations between India and Pakistan and calling for the exchange of Goodwill Missions etc. between the two countries?

(b) What action have the Government of India taken on the resolution?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have been consistently endeavouring to improve relations between India and Pakistan. Even before the resolution referred to was passed by the West Bengal Assembly, the Governments of India and Pakistan agreed on a procedure for considering all outstanding issues. A joint communique was issued on the 23rd May 1953 and each Government appointed a Steering Committee to assist in the task. The Steering Committees met in Karachi last month.

The operation of the passport and visa system was reviewed by the Indo-Pakistan Passport Conference held in Delhi last January. The decisions of the conference were ratified in July by the two Governments.

As the House is aware, the Prime Minister visited Karachi in the last week of July and held discussions there with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. During these talks a variety of subjects were discussed in a frank and friendly manner.

Subsequently, problems associated with evacuee properties were discussed at some length by senior officials of the two Governments in Karachi.

It is intended to hold a conference in Calcutta to discuss matters specially relating to East Pakistan and West Bengal and Assam.

RETRENCHMENT IN STATE COLLIERIES

*6. **Shri Punnoose:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the total number of employees retrenched from the State collieries between February, 1953 and 15th June, 1953?