

printed in the dialects of the North East Frontier area and if so, what is the script used?

Mr. Speaker: I think questions on that were put two or three days back.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, how many basic schools have so far been opened in that area?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We have no details yet of these.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, the names of different organisations that are conducting educational training in the area?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: All Government schools.

संगमरमर

*१७५. श्री बलबन्त सिंह मेहता :

क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या मकराने की संगमरमर की खानें देश की कुल जरूरत को पूरा कर सकती हैं; तथा

(ख) इटैलियन मार्बल को देश में आयात करने की क्या आवश्यकता है ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Imports were banned during the half year July—December, 1952. Several Representations from the trade and users were received that the shortfall is not taken up by indigenous production and that their business was suffering. The absolute ban was lifted for the half year July—December, 1953 and a quota of 50 per cent. was allowed. It is also understood that some shades of marble required by the building trade is not available from indigenous sources.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know, Sir, whether Government are

aware of the fact that both the marble mining and manufacturing industries are facing a great crisis primarily due to the keen competition from abroad, and that nearly 20,000 hands are very adversely affected?

Shri Karmarkar: My information—subject to correction—is that the marble extraction industry is suffering from the fact that its cost of production is rather high owing to want of power near the principal mines which produce these.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know the policy of the Government as regards the import of such things which are easily available in abundance in the country?

Shri Karmarkar: The policy is to curtail imports wherever necessary and advisable.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know what is the total quantity of marble produced in these mines annually?

Shri Karmarkar: I will give my friend the production figures, roughly, marble 13 lakhs c. ft. per year, marble slabs 2.5 lakhs and marble tiles about 14,000 tons.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Have any steps been taken to modernise the industry?

Shri Karmarkar: It is rather difficult. I think the Rajasthan Government is considering the matter.

Shri Damodara Menon: The hon. Minister said that the policy was to curtail imports wherever necessary. Do the Government consider it necessary to curtail the import of marble?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The fact really was, we did completely ban the import of marble for a time. On the other hand, there are certain types of builders, people in the building trade who did not find adequate supplies and it is a question of what is meant to one person is poison to another. We have to equalise somewhere and the present import policy is designed to that end.