

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot say definitely. Sir, as to when the Sindri Fertilizer Factory will convert all these daily-rated people into monthly-rated ones, but the tendency seems to be to employ more and more people on the daily rate basis rather than on the monthly rated basis.

EXPORT OF TIMBER

*21. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that certain restrictions have been imposed recently on the export of sawn timber from the West Coast ports;

(b) if so, what is their nature;

(c) why this restriction was imposed; and

(d) how this affects the timber industry in India generally and in Malabar particularly?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). The hon. Member is presumably referring to the restrictions imposed sometime back on the export of scantling and planks from Cochin port with a view to conserve supplies of timber of over four feet girth for the plywood industry and for railway sleepers. The question was recently examined further and the restrictions on the export of scantlings and planks have been removed from 3rd October, 1953.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether these restrictions were imposed only at the Calcutta and Cochin ports and not at the Bombay port?

Shri Karmarkar: I find that there are different restrictions, but I would not like to take up the time of the House over them. There have been some restrictions which have since been withdrawn. For instance, the qualities that were mentioned will be allowed for export to all permissible destinations, but railway sleepers made of sal, shisam, bijasal, benteak and teak will not be allowed to be exported in that manner. Like that

there were some general restrictions. In the case of Malabar junglewood—because that particular type of wood came from the Malabar side—we said that these well-known varieties of Malabar junglewood of less than four feet girth will be allowed freely for export. So, our instructions were relevant.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

*22. **Shri R. S. Lai:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether any documentary film has been prepared of the recent floods in U.P., Bihar and Andhra?

(b) If so, how many and of which places?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). The floods and flood relief operations in Assam, Andhra, Bihar and U.P. have been photographed and covered in 6 newsreels so far. Further coverage will be given whenever necessary. This is not considered a suitable subject for a separate documentary.

PLASTIC INDUSTRY

*23. **Th. Lakshma Singh Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many countries are importing Indian plastic goods and what is the quantity and the value thereof for the period 1948 to 1953?

(b) How many persons are now working in the Plastic Industry?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 5.]

(b) 12,000 (approx.).

For the information of the House, I might add that during 1953 the total value of the export was Rs. 11,89,000.