

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: Artificial silk factory, diesel engine factory, hinges and hardware goods, electrical goods etc.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it true that land prices and electricity and water rates in Faridabad are higher than in any other industrial centres, and if so, what steps do Government contemplate to reduce the rates with a view to giving a fillip to industry, so that more people may be employed?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: It is very difficult to answer that question straightaway. But as far as I know, all possible facilities are being given to Industrialists at Faridabad in the matter of water and electricity rates.

Shri Gidwani: Do Government pay for the transport charges of these fifteen hundred displaced persons who are being sent there on construction work? What are the wages that they earn every day?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: They get the usual wage, and Government do pay for their transport.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA

***2302. Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of goods imported from and exported to Russia after the signing of the Indo-Russian Trade Agreement;

(b) whether Government have imported any capital goods from Soviet Russia under the Agreement; and

(c) what goods have been exported from India to Russia under this agreement?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 48.]

Shri Wodeyar: May I know the rates on which the goods are imported, and how they compare with the goods imported from other countries?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not in a position to state that.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether this trade with Russia has any significant repercussions on the American trade?

Shri Karmarkar: No, the trade of one country should have no repercussion on that of another.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: In the statement I find only very few items mentioned as exports from India to the Soviet Union. May I know whether the list given is an exhaustive one, or there are other items also which are to be exported to Russia?

Shri Karmarkar: This is the correct list.

Mr. Speaker: Is it an exhaustive list?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: From the statement, I find that no capital goods have been imported from the Soviet Union. May I know whether Government have not thought it fit to import any capital goods? Or, what are the reasons for not importing any capital goods from Russia?

Shri Karmarkar: We leave our importers to import from wherever they like. I understand that Soviet Russia has recently offered India hydraulic turbines, and the offer was communicated to the trade and to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Besides I find that they have also offered 12 H.P. wheel type tractors with benzine engines at a price of Rs. 4385 c.i.f. I understand that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture propose to buy four of these tractors to find out whether they will be suitable for small farmers.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: According to the statement, during the last three months, Rs. 22 lakhs worth of goods have been imported from Russia into India. What are the goods that have been imported?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

"SHATI" FOOD INDUSTRY

*2303. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken to develop "Shati" food industry in Tripura;

(b) whether any representation has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A scheme for the development of "Shati" food industry was submitted by a private firm to the Planning Commission. After consulting the Government of Tripura it has been decided that the manufacture of Shati food should be tried on an experimental basis. Government of India have accordingly sanctioned a grant of Rs. 6,000 towards implementation of this scheme to the Tripura Government.

For the information of the House, I might add that 'Shati' is variously known as 'Shati food', 'Shatir Palu', and in Calcutta, it is known as 'Tikhur'. This is manufactured from a plant abundantly grown in Tripura, Assam and West Bengal. 'Shatir Palu' is manufactured from the roots of a plant which is a medicinal plant, and dies out in the winter season.

N. E. F. A.

*2304. **Shri Dhushiya:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what is the strength of the gazetted posts of the engineering personnel of the North-East Frontier Agency; and

(b) how they are recruited?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):

(a) The number of sanctioned posts

is twenty-eight; of these twenty-three have been filed.

(b) Officers of the rank of Assistant Engineer and above are drawn from the Central Public Works Department. Recruitment to posts of the rank of Sub-Divisional Officer and below is made locally through a Board constituted for the purpose by the Governor of Assam, after the posts have been widely advertised.

Shri Dhushiya: May I know the number recruited by the Central and State Governments respectively?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: The majority of the officers—three out of four executive engineers, and thirteen out of fourteen assistant engineers—are from the C.P.W.D. The superintending engineer himself, who is a displaced government servant, was appointed direct by the Ministry of External Affairs with the concurrence of the Union Public Service Commission, and the Ministries of Home Affairs and Works, Housing and Supply. One executive engineer, and one assistant engineer are from the Assam P.W.D., while two S.D.O's and the mechanical engineer and the movement officer have been recruited direct by the local administration.

Shri Dhushiya: May I know the existing number of engineering divisions in that Agency?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: There are only five divisions and twenty sub-divisions, including one planning sub-division.

POWER SUPPLY SCHEMES IN BIHAR

*2305. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission have agreed to enlarge the Five Year Plan in respect of power supply schemes in the State of Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a loan of Rs. 326 lakhs has been granted for this purpose; and

(c) if so, to which areas electric supply is proposed to be extended?