

privileges granted to government servants?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I know, as a matter of fact, regarding the pay for instance they are enjoying the same privileges as in Government; but this question refers to conduct rules and not terms of employment.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether the Indian Coffee Board Labour Union is given the rights and privileges of trade unions or organisations of Government?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think I had an occasion to answer that question earlier. There was a question about recognition of the trade union; the Government viewed it with sympathy, but the Indian Coffee Board whose discretion was bound to prevail in this matter, has not recognised that union. That is the present position.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether the Government has received any complaint that when there is some complaint against any worker, the Civil Servants' Classification and Appeal Rules are not being observed?

**Shri Karmarkar:** We have not received any such complaint, and if there is any legitimate complaint I should like to have it from the hon. Member.

#### CESS ON MILL-MADE PRODUCTS

\*2441. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has submitted any proposals for the levy of cess on mill-made products in order to subsidize rice-pounding and match-manufacturing on cottage industry basis; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government on the proposals?

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

(b) Does not arise.

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**Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** It is reported in the publication of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board that a proposal has been submitted for the Government to levy a cess on the mill-made products of rice as well as match industry in order to subsidize these two. May I know whether it is a fact or not?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Our latest information on the point is that the Research Committee recommended a cess of Rs. 0-4-6 per gross of 60 match sticks on all match factories having a production of more than 5 lakhs gross per year, that is A class factories, but the Board we understand defers consideration of this recommendation. Regarding rice there is no proposal so far as we know; in any case it has not been suggested to us.

#### SULPHURIC ACID

\*2442. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how much Sulphuric Acid was imported in 1953;

(b) how many firms are manufacturing it in India; and

(c) whether they have asked for any further facilities?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Only 38 Cwts.

(b) About 39.

(c) No, Sir.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know our annual requirements, say, during 1953?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am sorry I have not got that figure.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know from what countries we are importing sulphuric acid?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am sorry I shall have to ask for notice to answer that question.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Is the Ministry of Commerce aware.....

**Shri Karmarkar:** I would like to answer the question put by Dr. Rama

Rao because I find I have got the figures here. The consumption of sulphuric acid in different industries during 1952-53 are as follows:

1952 — 96,005 tons.

1953 — 109,091 tons

I am sorry to have interrupted.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Is the Ministry of Commerce aware that sulphuric acid is one of the 24 products handled by our ordnance factories and does the Ministry check up as to what are our real requirements with a view to stop further imports?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Regarding sulphur, we have to import it fully as the hon. Member is aware. As regards sulphuric acid our imports have only been 38 cwts. Our general policy is to limit imports exactly to requirements and we take indigenous production into consideration.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** In answer to (b) the hon. Minister has said that 39 firms are manufacturing sulphuric acid in India. May I know how many of them are Indian completely, how many of them are foreign and how many of them are mixed?

**Shri Karmarkar:** So far as I see, all of them are Indian—Sonavala Industries, Western Industries, Eastern Industries, etc. I find from the names *prima facie* all of them are Indian.

#### AUTOMOBILES

\*2443. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the report on page 1 of the *Hindustan Standard* dated the 1st May, 1954 under the heading 'Automobile Manufacture in India' and state:

(a) whether foreign manufactured automobiles of makes and sizes not covered by the Indian manufacturing programme will be allowed to be imported; and

(b) what, if any, are the steps taken by Government to ensure that the manufacturers do not price their products exorbitantly?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Except for vehicles of the jeep type, imports are not permitted for commercial purposes.

(b) Government are keeping a watch on the price trends of automobiles. They will take appropriate measures as and when occasions calling for Government intervention arise.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether under this policy of the Government, the imports of continental makes like Opel, Citroen, Renault and other cars will be banned?

**Shri Karmarkar:** My hon. friend will surely appreciate that our requirements minus our production will be our imports. If our production comes up to our requirements, there will be no need for importing.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether, in view of the fact that this policy is likely to create certain monopolies of free manufacturers who have been given certain advantages under this policy, the Government will make any effort to go into the cost accounting of these manufacturers and fix a margin of profit?

**Shri Karmarkar:** As I said before, we are keeping a close watch on the price trends. If the price trends require regulation, we shall certainly not hesitate to do so. I may tell the hon. Member that these companies are working under a very great handicap in putting up this automobile industry and therefore, there is no question of high profits.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** As a result of this import policy, the Hindustan Motors have got a virtual monopoly of their small car and with their advantageous position they have recently raised the price by Rs. 500. May I know whether Government will look into it and see that proper price is fixed?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am not aware of any recent rise in price. If the hon. Member by 'recent' means last year, there was a small rise, but we are