

Shri Hathi: No, there is none.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Dr. Natabar Pandey: Is it a fact that the present condition of the bridge over Mahanadi is getting worse day by day for want of repairs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have called the next question.

TRADE MARKS INQUIRY COMMITTEE

*33. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Marks Inquiry Committee has finished its work;

(b) if the report has been submitted, what are the major recommendations that have been made therein; and

(c) if not, what is the time that will be taken by the Committee to submit its report?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of April 1954.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether at the time of appointment of this Committee any time-limit was fixed for the submission of its report?

Shri Karmarkar: No time was fixed, but the Committee was expected to submit its report by the end of February.

HANDLOOM WEAVERS

*35. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amounts given to the Punjab State from the Handloom Fund for giving relief to the weavers?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A grant of Rs. 24,160 has been sanctioned.

Shri D. C. Sharma: On what basis was this amount arrived at?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I might explain. The position is that the Punjab Government have been told that they might prepare schemes for a particular amount. And in this instance, I think they were told the schemes might be to the extent of Rs. 3,38,000. The schemes that they have submitted and have been sanctioned are only for Rs. 24,000 and odd. We have still under scrutiny four other schemes—one involving about Rs. 2,08,000; another Rs. 16,000; the third Rs. 32,450 and the fourth one Rs. 8,000.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when those schemes would be finally decided upon and what will be the amount of further grant given to the Punjab Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, the Punjab Government have been asked to send schemes for up to about Rs. 3,38,000 and it is our hope these schemes will be sanctioned well before the end of the month because I do not want this money to lapse. I want the money to be utilised this year.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how this grant is distributed among the weavers? Is it done after consultation with the Central Government, or is it done by the Punjab Government on its own?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The broad lines of distribution are determined when making the grant. The actual distribution of the money is left to the State Government.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any distinction is made between the backward areas of a State and those areas which may be comparatively progressive economically?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In this instance I am afraid I am not in a position to furnish an answer, but it is the intention of the Government of India in making these grants that, as far as possible, State Governments.

should concentrate on the backward areas.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: May I know if the distribution of the cess is made on the basis of the total number of handlooms in each State or on any other basis?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: A very rough basis is usually the amount of yarn they consume—not the number of handlooms, because the number of handlooms often represents an inflated figure, far away from the realities of the situation.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how many persons approximately will be benefited by the grant the Central Government has made?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is more than I can answer.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I mean the *per capita* money available.

Mr. Speaker: He has already replied to it.

Shri S. N. Das: I have been authorised by Mr. Bansal to put his questions.

Mr. Speaker: Which question?

Shri S. N. Das: No. 4 and two others.

Mr. Speaker: Has he filed a written authority here?

Shri S. N. Das: Yes, Sir. Yesterday he filed it in the office.

Mr. Speaker: I will take his word for it that he has filed.

DISCRIMINATION IN P. & O. SHIPS

*4. **Shri S. N. Das** (on behalf of **Shri Bansal**): Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint was received by Government from a highly placed Indian officer accredited to a foreign country against the treatment on board the P. & O. Ships;

(b) if so, the nature of the complaint; and

(c) the action Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Some complaints of discriminatory treatment of non-white passengers on P. & O. boats have been made by Government officials and private individuals.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the U.K. Authorities.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government expects replies from the Government concerned in the near future, and if so, by what time?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have already had some correspondence with the United Kingdom High Commission here and the matter is being pursued. We are also in consultation with the P. & O. Company authorities.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the period in which these complaints have been received by the Government?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): May I answer the question because part of the question was dealt with by my Ministry? We heard about it not directly, but indirectly and the matter was investigated. The matter was taken up with the steamship authorities, and I think individually the persons concerned—not merely an officer of the Government, but other people—were approached by the Company and the position was explained. Government have been assured that in future there will be no cause for even complaints of this nature, and I think at the moment until we get fresh complaints we have to rest on that assurance.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know the nature of the complaint?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The nature of the complaint was that Indian passengers travelling by a particular steamer felt that they were discriminated against in various ways. I think one of the complaints was