

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

that the children were more or less put in a place which was near the boilers and certain discrimination was practised in dining room facilities. It is a question of a cumulative feeling rather than of specific complaints. The matter has been attended to.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether this sort of racial complaint has been received only against the P. & O. liners or any other foreign liner that is operating?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as the Government of India are concerned, at the moment this is the only complaint we are seized of.

INDIAN CONSULATES

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

(a) the number of Indian Consulates that are functioning at present in the U.S.A.;

(b) the cities where they are functioning; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more Consulates in that country?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). There is no Indian Consulate in the U.S.A. but there are Indian Consulates General at New York and San Francisco.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: Do these Consulates come under the administration of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, or the External Affairs Ministry?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The administrative side of these Consulates-General is under the control of the Indian Embassy at Washington.

Shri N. L. Joshi: What are the functions of these Consulates?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Consular activities.

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***34. Shri S. N. Das (on behalf of Shri Bansal):** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press report that all contracting parties to the GATT, except Australia, Brazil and Peru, have signed the declaration extending the life of the GATT Schedules until the 1st July, 1955;

(b) if so, how the non-participation of these countries in the GATT will affect India; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to safeguard India's position in regard to the concessions given to these countries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir. But later on intimation was received from the GATT Secretariat to the effect that the Government of Australia had decided to sign the Declaration. The Contracting Parties are now considering the question of extending the time limit for signature of the Declaration up to the 30th April, 1954.

(b) It is not our understanding that by declining to sign the Declaration Brazil and Peru have gone out of GATT. These two countries have signed the Protocol of Provisional Application of the GATT and have not given any notice of withdrawal.

(c) Government of India have no reason to believe that either Brazil or Peru is anxious to withdraw the tariff concessions granted to India, and the question, therefore, does not arise at this stage.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the nature of the concessions given by the Government of India to those countries that have signed the Declaration so far?

Shri Karmarkar: I could give him the names of the commodities on which India has received concessions and given concessions, but it is a fairly long list. If you will permit me, I shall read it out.