

TEA

*1948. **Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of production of good quality tea in 1953 and the prospects of production in 1954;

(b) the quota of export of good quality tea in 1953 and 1954; and

(c) the quantity of good quality tea required to meet internal demands?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Latest estimate for 1953.... 608 million lbs.

Expected crop for 1954... 630 million lbs.

These figures should be taken generally as representing production of standard teas.

(b) 1953-54 ... 437,048,943 lbs.

Quota for 1954-55 has not yet been fixed. Pending its fixation, an export quota to the extent of 105% of standard export is being issued.

(c) 170 million lbs. approximately.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know how the prevailing prices of good quality tea compare with those in the corresponding period in 1953?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got figures for prices. I should like to have notice.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that in some parts of Assam and Manipur, the price of tea is abnormally rising and tea is not available in the market, and if so, what steps have Government taken to arrest the rise of prices and make good tea available there?

Shri Karmarkar: We had no complaint about non-availability of tea; we had a complaint recently that prices are higher than they ought to be. So far as I remember, we are looking into the matter.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know whether the Government propose

to reduce the quota of export to counteract the rise in prices wherever it takes place?

Shri Karmarkar: Reduction in export is not necessary to reduce the price in Assam. The difficulty with regard to the price is that all the tea is blended in Calcutta and the buyers in Assam have to bear the transport charges for the tea to Calcutta and then back to Assam for the blended tea. We are thinking of some way to meet this difficulty.

WRAPPER TOBACCO

*1950. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to include wrapper tobacco in the O.G.L.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether we are producing enough of this kind of tobacco in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We are not.

Shri Barman: May I know whether it is a fact that Government are starting a wrapper tobacco production centre in Dinhat within the West Bengal State? How far has that scheme advanced?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I believe this must be in the jurisdiction of the Food and Agriculture Ministry. If a question is put down, it will be answered.

TIN CONTAINERS

*1951. **Shri G. L. Chaudhary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories for manufacturing tin containers in India; and

(b) what are the country's annual requirements of tin containers?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) There are at present about 188 fabricators of tin containers in the country.

(b) Precise information is not available. The amount of tin plate consumed by the fabricating companies is estimated at about 70,000 tons per annum.

Shri G. L. Chaudhary: May I know the amount of tin containers supplied by the cottage industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not got the break-up.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Seeing the requirements of the country and the small number of tin container factories, will Government take planned action to meet the requirements of the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That would have been the position about a year and a half back. Today, it is a little difficult to assume tinplate planning and production.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether any foreign capital is invested in this industry, if so, how much and what proportion of the manufacture of tin containers is carried on by them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are 188 fabricators. I do not have the break-up of the capital structure of all these fabricators.

Shri Kelappan: May I know if we are importing tin containers?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would not be quite so sure whether we are importing tinplates, but that has become practically nominal now.

Shri K. K. Basu: What is the production of the Metal Box Company (India) Limited?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Notice

AMERICAN TOBACCO

***1952. Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any limit to the percentage of American tobacco that is allowed to be mixed in the manufacture of cigarettes in India; and

(b) the quantities of cigarette tobacco imported into India in 1952-53 and 1953-54?

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

(b) 1952-53	3,404,317 lbs.
1953-54	... 761,685 lbs.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether Government intend fixing any limits to the mixing of American tobacco in cigarettes made in India?

Shri Karmarkar: No, there is no need for fixing any limits to the mixing. In fact, the amount imported for this purpose is only five per cent of the country's total production, and our local production is ninety-five per cent.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether the mixing of American tobacco with Indian tobacco is done to get the flavour?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, that is the view of the smokers as well as the producers.

INDIANS IN MALAYA

***1954. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian has been appointed in the Cabinet in Malaya; and

(b) whether any representation is being given to the Indian Community in the permanent administrative services of Malaya State?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.