

केसर

*२१३४. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत में प्रति वर्ष कितने केसर की खपत होती है ; और

(ख) भारत में प्रति वर्ष कितना केसर उत्पन्न होता है ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Information required is not available.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know how much saffron is imported into India?

Shri Karmarkar: I can give only the figures for two years:

1952-53—The quantity imported was 15,103 pounds and the value Rs. 15,87,000.

1953-54 (from April 1953 to February 1954)—The quantity imported was 9,485 pounds and the value Rs. 10,42,000.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know how much saffron is imported from Spain only?

Shri Karmarkar: I should think that the major quantity comes from Spain because Spain is the largest saffron producing country in the world.

TOBACCO IMPORT

*2135. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the value of tobacco and its products imported during 1953-54; and

(b) what was the rate of import duty on (i) tobacco and (ii) its products?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 52,31,000 (April 1953 to February 1954).

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 13.]

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What quantity of this imported tobacco is used for the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the split-up of figures for cigars and cigarettes with me at the moment.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is any rebate given on the export of the cigarettes manufactured out of this tobacco?

Shri Karmarkar: I do not think so.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know if it is a fact that we have a large amount of excess tobacco in our own country, and if so, what is the reason for allowing this import? Is it of a special quality?

Shri Karmarkar: Actually, we import comparatively a very very small quantity as compared with our production. That is necessary to help our local industry of cigars and cigarettes because the blend gives a better quality cigarette—I am told—than that made with Indian tobacco.

*2138. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:

(a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that re-reaming staff in stationery office in Calcutta were rendered surplus recently?

(b) Were new recruitments made for store-packing work in the same office?

(c) How many of the surplus re-reaming staff were taken on when this new recruitment was made for store-packers?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of 3 Clerks and 12 Counters, the 3 Clerks have been absorbed in the Main Office and 6 Counters in the Store-packing section.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if it is a fact that it is the accepted principle of Government to absorb surplus men first, and, if so, what was the reason for not absorbing the other six who were surplus and making direct recruitments from outside?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Normally, an effort is made to absorb the surplus staff. In this case, I may add that the three clerks and twelve counters who were found to be surplus had been temporarily recruited for a period of only ten months, and even then we absorbed all the three clerks and six out of twelve counters. The six who could not be absorbed were against posts for which the nomination was in the hands of the storekeepers who were responsible for the stocks.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it is a fact that a cook of the Deputy Controller was one of the nominees of the storekeepers for direct recruitment?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have no information about this; but, to be a cook of the Deputy Controller is not a disqualification.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Then, is it a qualification?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

EDUCATIONAL LOANS TO DISPLACED PERSONS

*2140. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grant sanctioned in the year 1953-54 by the Government of India to various States for educational loans to displaced persons;

(b) the amount allotted to each State; and

(c) whether any grants were made to any institutions or organisations for providing facilities for education of the displaced students?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) No

separate allotments were made for educational loans for displaced students. The expenditure is incurred from the provision for urban loans.

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 14.]

(c) Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What were the considerations that guided the Government in making these grants and loans to States?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: That the institution should have a very wide claim; they should have the majority of displaced students as well as displaced teachers, and we also take into consideration the amount recommended by the State Government. We also fix a ceiling viz. that for colleges not more than Rs. 1,00,000, for high schools Rs. 50,000 and for primary schools Rs. 15,000 shall be given.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If the number of displaced students was one of the factors that guided the Government in making these grants and loans, how is it that in the statement I find that Uttar Pradesh has got Rs. 10,000, Rajasthan Rs. 46,000, Bombay Rs. 34,310, while West Bengal has got Rs. 3,500 and Punjab only Rs. 6,000? These two States would be expected to have the largest number of displaced students.

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: I think the students in both these States are more wiser than in other States. The Government introduced the loan scheme from 1947-48 to 1949-50 and after that a stipend scheme was introduced which is in force. The students were given the option whether to accept the loans or stipends and those who have accepted the stipends do not naturally get any loans.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there is any uniformity as to the rate of interest and the terms of refunding of loans so far as the various States are concerned, or is it left to the States themselves to fix any terms that they like?