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LOK SABHA

Friday, 3rd September, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TRADE AGREEMENTS

- *442. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:
- (a) the names of the countries with which trade agreements have been signed from the 1st January, 1954 to the end of August, 1954; and
- (b) the names of the countries to which large quantities of Indian cottage industry products were exported during the above period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 49.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if trade agreements with some other countries are also under consideration at present?

Shri Karmarkar: Not any, except China, as far as I remember.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the approximate value of the products of cottage industries which have been shipped to these countries, as given in (b)?

Shri Karmarkar: I could not give my hon. friend the exact figures of 347 LSD the value of cottage industry products exported to these countries.

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Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to say what are the names of the articles mostly in demand in these countries.

Shri Karmarkar: Of cottage industry products or other products?

Shri D. C. Sharma: Cottage industry products.

Shri Karmarkar: Banaras brocade, bidri-ware, brass-works and things like that.

Shri Bansal: May I know what is the up-to-date experience of the Government of India in regard to the working of these bilateral trade agreements?

Shri Karmarkar: The up-to-date experience is quite satisfactory.

Mr. Speaker: The next question, No. 443 by Shri M. L. Dwivedi will be taken up at the end. Shri Radha Raman has been authorised to put it.

JUTE GRADING

- *445. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there is at present no scientific classification of jute fibre and the cultivators are entirely in the hands of dealers in their arbitrary grading in jute fibre as 'top' 'middle' and 'bottoms'; and
- (b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to formulate rules for grading?