

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How many of them have adopted Burman citizenship and how many are Indian citizens?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: If they so adopted, they cease to be Indian nationals.

EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*674. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of indigenous factories manufacturing explosives;

(b) the number of workers employed therein; and

(c) the effect on them of Government's agreement with Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd. for the setting up of an Explosives factory for civilian requirement?

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

(a) The number of explosives factories licensed by the Explosives Department of the Government of India is 984. The number of licences issued by the District authorities is not known.

(b) Information is not available.

(c) It is expected that the establishment of an Explosives Factory by the Imperial Chemical Industries (India) will not adversely affect the existing local units, as its programme does not include items already made in the country.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is there any scheme for reserving certain items of manufacture only for indigenous production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Since the programme of manufacture of this new unit does not coincide with what is being manufactured in the country, there is no intention of any reservation being made.

INDIAN RUBBER BOARD

*675. **Prof. Mathew:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised the Indian Rubber Board not to give recognition to its Staff Association; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

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

(a) and (b). The Government agreed with the Chairman, Indian Rubber Board that it was not necessary for the small staff of the Indian Rubber Board to have an Association since the genuine grievances of such a limited number of persons are unlikely to escape the attention of the Board. It was, however, left to the members of the staff to form an Association, if they so desire.

Prof. Mathew: In view of the fact that a very small number of people have to deal with the employers, it is all the more necessary that they should be strengthened by being recognised as an organised Association, and the advice given by the Ministry seems to be a handicap to the members of the Staff Association.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is arguing the point. What information does he want?

Prof. Mathew: I am just asking whether he agrees with it.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether there is any alternative provision for the workers for getting their grievances redressed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are twenty-nine employees all told, of various categories. They are all staying at one particular place. The number is too small for an association; they are all together, and the possibilities of their ventilating their grievances are many, and therefore it is felt that an association is not necessary; and if they form an association, there is nothing wrong in their doing so, they can do so.