

Shri Karmarkar : No, it is largely due to causes beyond our control.

Shri Punnoose : May I know the amount of export duty charged on every ton of pepper; what was it, and what is it now?

Shri Karmarkar: It was 30 per cent. *ad valorem*, with a maximum limit of Rs. 150 per cwt. It is now reduced from that to Rs. 65 per cwt., the maximum limit, with effect from the 12th May 1954.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Is it a fact that the recent concessions announced by the Government with regard to export duty have not in any way benefited the grower?

Shri Karmarkar: It is yet too early to say. They are expected to benefit, and if they do not benefit, it will be more due to world causes because, as my hon. friend appreciates as well as I do and knows as well as I do, there is a keen competition with Indian pepper from Indonesia and Sarawak especially during the last few years.

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 7, Sardar Hukam Singh.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I suggest that questions Nos. 10, 24 and 31 may also be taken together with this?

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Minister agreeable to that?

Shri Anil K. Chanda : I am prepared to answer all of them, one after the other.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

***7, Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ceylon Government have sent any proposals, regarding the proposed constitutional amendments for providing for parliamentary representation for the registered citizens of Indian origin in Ceylon; and

(b) if so, whether Government have intimated their reactions to the Ceylon Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b) Yes. We were informed of their proposals and our reactions to those proposals were also duly intimated to them.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

***10. Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Ceylon Government has implemented the Indo-Ceylon Agreement on Indians in Ceylon;

(b) what is the position of the registration of citizens under the Indian and Pakistani Citizenship Act; and

(c) how the Government of India intend to deal with the 'Stateless persons' whom Ceylon will not recognise?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) In order to give effect to the provisions made in clauses 4 & 5 of the Delhi Agreement, certain Constitutional Amendment bills were recently introduced and passed in the Ceylon parliament.

The Acts as passed provide for a separate electorate consisting of all registered voters, in a single island-wide constituency and for the termination of the separate electorates any time in 1966. In constituencies where the number of registered voters was less than 250 they were put on the national register. The number of representatives the registered voters are to elect has been fixed at four. The Ceylon Government according to the Delhi Agreement is to offer special inducements to encourage registration of persons as Indian citizens under the Constitution of India. So far no such inducements have been offered by them. The pace of registration and the disposal of the pending applications has also not so far shown any definite increase.