

are to get service in Government offices?

Shri V. V. Giri: There is no such circular.

NEWSPRINT

*1436. **Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is still in great demand for newsprints?

(b) Which are the principal countries that are regularly supplying newsprints?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Austria, Canada, Finland, Japan and Norway.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Is it not a fact that the newsprint position has improved, and when is the Government going to remove the price page schedule control?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The price page schedule control was introduced at the request of the India and Eastern Newspaper Society, on which are represented practically all the major newspapers in the country. Unless they agree to the removal of the price page schedule control, Government would not be able to do anything unilaterally. But we are in correspondence with them to see whether, since the position of newsprint is easier, they still wish the control order to be kept in force.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: May I know what is the total quantity of newsprint required by India?

Shri Karmarkar: About 64,000 tons at the moment.

Mr. Speaker: That question was put and answered last week, I think.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: May I know whether arrangements are being made to manufacture it in India?

Mr. Speaker: I think that was answered last week or so. It was answered in detail.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is Government aware that a substantial quantity of Soviet newsprint came lately to this country, and that the Soviets gave assurances that they were ready to supply newsprint in any quantity at very reasonable prices?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir; Government are aware.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I ask if the Government can give us any definite idea as regards the prospects of Indian self-sufficiency about newsprint production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid we cannot give any definite idea.

Mr. Speaker: I think this question was answered last week.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Apart from the request of the India and Eastern Newspaper Society, which was not a unanimous request, is my hon. friend convinced about the necessity of continuing the price page schedule control in view of the easier newsprint situation that now obtains in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The House will understand that the request for fixing a price page schedule came from the group of smaller newspapers. Obviously the bigger newspapers group did not like it, and there was, therefore, no unanimity in regard to the decision of the India and Eastern Newspaper Society. But apparently a majority have requested Government for this facility. It is not a matter of conviction so far as Government is concerned; it is really a matter as to how it suits the smaller newspapers who feel that this helps them. The matter, as I said, is again under consideration. Government will take suitable action when they think that the time is appropriate.

TEA PRODUCTION

*1437. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that countries like Indonesia, East Africa, Formosa, Indo-China, Iran and Malaya have sharply increased the production of tea?

(b) If so, do Government apprehend some competition in the world market for our tea this year on this account?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) There has been some increase in the tea production in the countries under reference.

(b) To a certain extent.

(c) Difficulties facing our tea industry at the moment are the subject of investigation by a Special Committee.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Are Government aware of the fact that the tea industry of Assam has of late faced serious labour trouble for want of food supplies to labour at controlled prices?

Shri Karmarkar: Apart from the particular cause of the difficulty, Government appreciate the fact that the tea industry as a whole was in some difficulties and, therefore, they have sent out two officials to go into this matter, and we are expecting their report shortly.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of tea in 1951 and in the first part of 1952?

Shri Karmarkar: Tea exports during 1950 and 1951 were as follows: in 1950, £453 million; in 1951, £443 million.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: May I know if it is a fact that the Indian tea industry has already lost markets in Australia and New Zealand?

Shri Karmarkar: That is not a fact.

Shri Bhagwat Jha: That is a fact.

Shri Venkataraman: May I ask whether these countries are not members of the International Tea Agreement and are therefore free to extend their acreage while India is under a restriction in the matter of extending the acreage under tea?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I think the hon. Member himself knows, being a member of the Indian Tea Control Committee, that that is the position.

Shri Venkataraman: I am just leading to another question. May I ask, whether, in view of increased competition from East Africa and other countries, the Government of India have any idea of revising the International Agreement?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter which is constantly engaging the attention of Government as to how far we benefit by being participants in this International Agreement. There are various facets of this problem, and they are all being studied all the time.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it not a fact that there is a large acreage which is capable of being brought under tea cultivation in this country, and that because of this Agreement we are unable to expand our production?

Shri Karmarkar: As a matter of fact, this was the subject matter of a detailed question and answer, and I remember to have said that under the International Agreement it is possible for India to increase the acreage to a smaller extent than what the hon. Member assumes, and it is open for the cultivator to increase it to that extent.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it not a fact that the increase in acreage is only 1 per cent. per annum?

Mr. Speaker: I think we are entering into an argument and cross-examination.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether there are blending factories in India; if so, are they owned and managed by Indians themselves?

Shri Karmarkar: A number of them are Indian.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Are they owned and managed by Indians?

Shri Karmarkar: Some of them are.

MIGRATION FROM EAST PAKISTAN

*1440. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary to my starred question No. 1 on the 19th May, 1952 and state:

(a) the number of migrants from East Pakistan who are still in India;

(b) whether their return to East Pakistan is still continuing; and

(c) whether the permit system will affect their return to East Pakistan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) It is difficult to give accurate figures. A census taken by the West Bengal Government in December 1950 disclosed that there were 23,01,514 displaced persons from East Bengal who had come to West Bengal.

From the 1st January 1951 to the 29th May 1952, traffic continued in both directions. The only record is of railway traffic, which includes all kinds of travellers—migrants, businessmen, smugglers, etc. Figures for this period are:

Hindus from East Bengal
to West Bengal ... 21,95,888

Hindus from West Bengal
to East Bengal ... 24,87,563

Thus, according to these figures there was a net influx of 2,91,675 Hindus