

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Now, Sir, this point has not been brought before us. The hon. Member remembers that this whole idea of the passport system has not been initiated by our Government. It was initiated by Pakistan and it was originally intended to start it on the 15th June. However, no special date has been fixed but as far as I understand, it is likely to be introduced somewhere roundabout the middle of September.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not true, Sir, that during the Pujas as large number of people from both East Bengal and West Bengal cross the border and it will be very difficult for them to have passports.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Without prejudice to the negotiations which are now going on is Government in a position to give us any idea as to the possibility of the avoidance of detriment to the interests of people who want to be moving about from East Pakistan to West Bengal in the course of the negotiations which are now going on?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member means after the passport system is introduced?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could you give any indication as to the possibility of avoiding any real detriment to the interests of people who would be moving about, in view of the kind of discussions which are now going on?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is generally agreed that we should—I say we for the moment, I mean the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan—avoid any such detriment occurring and I hope that it will be so. Naturally I cannot guarantee against any inconvenience arising out of the system.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is Government aware that there are large areas in the border zones where the agriculturists move across the border, and is their standpoint considered in the introduction of the passport system?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, in regard to the border areas, that is within some distance—or perhaps the specific villages might be mentioned or the particular area might be mentioned—it will be completely easy for people to cross over for agricultural purposes, petty trade and such like things.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह: इस पासपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में जो शर्तें और शरायत भारत सरकार और पाकिस्तान सरकार के बीच में हो रही हैं और होंगी, उनके बारे में

प्राइम मिनिस्टर की ऐसी आशा है कि पाकिस्तान सरकार अपनी शरायत को पूरा करेगी।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू: प्राइम मिनिस्टर हमेशा अच्छी आशायें रखता है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह: इसीलिये प्राइममिनिस्टर बोला ही खाते हैं।

CODE OF STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.

*1442. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any Code of Standard Specifications for articles manufactured in India?

(b) Is there a Bureau of standards in India as in the U.S.A.?

(c) Is there any Governmental Institution which tests whether the goods manufactured conform to fixed standards and enforces conformity to those standards?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):

(a) Except for the manufacture of drugs and chemicals where standards are laid down in the Drugs Act, 1940, there is no code of standard specifications for articles manufactured in India.

(b) Yes, the Indian Standards Institution corresponds to the American Standards Association.

(c) Yes, there are Government institutions where testing is carried out. The standards prescribed in the Indian Standards Institution are, however, for voluntary adoption.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is there any such code of specifications for minerals like manganese?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

MAGNESITE ORE

*1443. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that large quantities of Magnesite ore are being sent from Salem District to Japan?

(b) For what manufactures are they used?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Basic refractories, magnesium metal and Chemical products.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know the quantity and value of such exports?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The total quantity of such exports for 1951-52 was 11,39,811 cwts. The value was Rs. 55,45,642.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are any such articles made in our country? If not, is any attempt being made to make them here?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there a general increase in the quantity exported outside India during the current year and, if so, what is the percentage of increase over that of last year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, there has been a general increase. If the hon. Member wants I can say that in the year 1949-50 the total exports were in the region of 8,11,831 cwts., in 1950-51 they were 3,49,211 cwts. as against 11 lakhs odd during 1951-52. I am unable to give any percentages.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the rise in prices?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether in view of the tremendous American rearmament that is going on it is advisable to supply such war-significant material to a satellite of America?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is asking for an opinion.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what are the countries to which these commodities have been exported and in what quantities?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can give the countries and the quantities but it will take a lot of time. If the hon. Member wants it I will lay a statement on the Table of the House.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if any attempt is made in India to manufacture insulated covers for steel pipes etc., out of magnesite?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether the Government of India has entered into any agreement with the Government of Japan regarding the export of magnesite ore?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The fact is that we are sending a large quantity to Japan but I cannot tell the hon. Member off hand whether there is any agreement—presumably not.

RESCUE STATIONS

*1444. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Rescue Station as envisaged by the Indian Coal Mines

Rescue Rules, 1939, has been opened uptill now in the Coal fields; and

(b) if so, how many and in which collieries?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) Two; one at Jharia for Jharia coal fields and the other at Sitarampur for Raniganj coal fields.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know what part they play and under what circumstances?

Shri V. V. Giri: They are rescue stations and they help in the act of rescuing people whenever there are accidents.

Shri N. P. Sinha: Have they saved any lives so far? Is there any such report to the Government?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, they did. Rescue work was undertaken in 1950-51 in four mines in the Sitarampur station and in 15 mines in the Jharia station.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I also know if this facility is going to be extended to the mica mines also?

Shri V. V. Giri: Notice.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any complaints have been forwarded to the Ministry that these rescue stations are not working properly?

Shri V. V. Giri: No complaints have been received so far as I know.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether these rescue rules apply to the gold fields in Mysore?

Shri V. V. Giri: Notice.

CLAIM AGAINST BUYER OF IMPORTED CLOTH

*1446. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 175-C, asked on the 10th August, 1951 and state:

(a) whether the pending claim for Rs. 15 lakhs has since been settled; and

(b) if not, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No.

(b) The matter is being pursued with the party.

Shri S. N. Das: It was in 1950 that in the Public Accounts Committee Report the attention of Government was drawn to the fact. May I know