

sibilities and I am not prepared to commit myself to any answer at this stage.

Shri Madhao Reddi: May I know whether there is any agreement entered into in this connection with a Japanese firm?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether any final decision has been taken about the pig iron plant in Madhya Pradesh?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have not come to any decision in regard to the third unit, and when the decision is taken we will know what the location of that unit will be.

APPROACH BY BRITISH COLONIAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*1523. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Colonial Development Corporation have contacted the Government of India for Indian labourers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). Yes. A representative of the Corporation contacted the Controller-General of Emigration informally to discuss the prospects of workers being available in India for work in North Borneo. The provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, under which emigration of unskilled workers has been banned and emigration of skilled workers may be permitted, were explained to him. No concrete proposals have so far been received from the Corporation. The question of any action on the part of the Government does not, therefore, arise at present.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government have allowed the entry of skilled or unskilled Indian labourers into Borneo?

Shri Satish Chandra: I have said that an informal request has been made on behalf of Borneo and it is still under consideration.

Shri Nambiar: Why are the Borneo Government asking the Indian Government to send labourers there as if there is no possibility of their getting labourers from anywhere else, as if we were the only people who could supply them?

Shri Satish Chandra: Government of India do not intend to allow any emigration of unskilled labourers to Borneo.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government is aware that the British Colonial Development Corporation is only a contract labour organisation?

Shri Satish Chandra: I am not aware of the character of that organisation.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government of Borneo has asked the Indian Government whether it is possible to send settlers to North Borneo, that is whether it is possible to send some people to settle down there permanently?

Shri Satish Chandra: No, Sir.

LABOUR PROVIDENT FUND

*1524. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have finalised the scheme for Provident Fund for workers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): The Employees Provident Funds Scheme has not yet been finalised. It is expected to be finalised and published shortly.

TRADE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

*1525. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what were the terms of trade arrangements with Czechoslovakia in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) What were the goods that were exported to and imported from Czechoslovakia in these two years (with quantity and value year by year)?

(c) Has any trade arrangement been made with Czechoslovakia for 1952-53?

(d) If so, what are the terms?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The terms of the trade arrangement with Czechoslovakia in the year 1950-51 are contained in the Indo-Czech Trade Agreement, (1950-51), copies of which will be found in the Library of the House. There was no trade arrangement with that country in the year 1951-52.

(b) Two Statements giving the required information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 40.]

(c) A Trade arrangement between the two countries for 1952-53 is under negotiation.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the interval after which the trade agreement with Czechoslovakia is being renewed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, there was no trade arrangement with that country in the year 1951-52 and if the present negotiations go through, the interval would obviously be one year.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I find from the statement that in 1951-52 dyes and tanning substances obtained from coal tar to the extent of 144,000 lbs. were imported into India. May I know what arrangements are being made in India to manufacture dyes from coal tar?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Notice, Sir.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What are the reasons why no agreement in 1951-52 was possible?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Apparently the parties were not anxious for an agreement.

Dr. Jaisooriya: Was it the other party that was unwilling for an agreement or our party?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member may have it whichever way he likes it because two parties must come to an agreement to have such an agreement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think in such matters if the hon. Minister has no information he may say he will look into it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, I have the information but that is the position.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the position is that our Government did not want to enter into an agreement it is open to the hon. Minister, if it is confidential, not to state it, but if there is no confidence about it he may state what the attitude of the Government is.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I explain the position, Sir? The necessity must be there for such an agreement—probably the existing trade arrangements are going through smoothly. After all we are not working on a trade agreement with major countries like U.K., U.S.A. or France. Sometimes we have an agreement on barter basis and an agreement is essential in that case. Otherwise normal trade channels operate automatically.

It does not mean that trade between the two countries ceases if there is no trade agreement.

Shri Joachim Alva: The officers of the Commerce and Industry Department visited Czechoslovakia about a year or two ago, headed by the present acting Secretary of the Department. Did they visit the Skoda factory and find out what were the capital goods that could be brought with maximum profit for import into India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member will put a question I will answer it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The statement shows that ores have been imported as well as exported. May I know the qualities of the ores that were imported or exported?

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

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether at any time the Government of India had approached the Czechoslovakian Government for any capital goods?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Notice, Sir.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government has any trade arrangement with Spain, Germany, Austria and Russia?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise?

INDIAN COTTON FOR FRANCE

*1526. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has offered to buy any Indian cotton;

(b) if so, how much, of what quality and at what price per bale;

(c) what efforts are being made to persuade France to buy more; and

(d) whether it is a fact that France wants Indian cotton in place of American cotton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The Government of India have announced to-date a total quantity of 302,000 bales of certain specified descriptions for export and France is one of the destinations to which exporters can export cotton. There are no offers and purchases on a Government to Government basis. Individual Indian exporters to whom quotas have been allocated can do business with individual buyers in France.