

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) In view of the reply to part (a) of the question, this does not arise.

(d) The Government have no information.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** May I know what efforts, if any, are being made by Government to restore our short staple cotton trade with foreign countries to the pre-war level?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The question that my hon. friend raises involves an admission which I am not prepared to make. We are not very anxious to allow export of our short staple cotton beyond the limits described in the answer and therefore, if it is a question of our going out to increase our exports, it does not arise. answer.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Can the hon. Minister tell us what part of the short staple cotton produced in this country can be utilised by the Indian mills?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The hon. Member has asked several questions previously on this subject and he knows that our expectations this year of production of local cotton is in the region of 34 lakh bales and the bulk of it happens to be short staple cotton, and it is presumed that mills will consume most of it and the export policy is dictated by the estimate of what the mills can possibly spare. That is represented by the figure of three lakh bales mentioned in the answer.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Would the hon. Minister be able to say if the consumption of short staple cotton by Indian mills has gone up and if so by how much?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Since last year?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The position is that since 1947-48 when our export of short staple cotton was considerably high it has fallen. The presumption therefore is that the mills have been absorbing our production, and our production has appreciably increased in recent times.

#### INDIAN TEA IN U. K.

\*1527 **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the price of Indian tea per pound as compared to the prices of

Pakistan, Ceylonese, Indonesian, and East African tea in the British market;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce this price-level; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 41.]

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether it is a fact that some tea planters have informed the Government of India that they would close down their gardens if the prices of tea are not reduced and the cost of production is also not reduced?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to find that out.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the bulk purchase for the U.K. is still in vogue?

**Shri Karmarkar:** No, Sir.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know what has been the result of the recent enquiry held by the Department?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The Committee has covered North India. It has gone to South India and we are awaiting its report.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know whether the recent increase in the ration of tea in the U.K. has led to any increase in the demand from the U.K.?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is as yet too early to say, but the demand for our tea is bound to increase.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** What arrangements have been made for storing tea in Calcutta, so that the auction may be held at Calcutta?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

#### SIKH PILGRIMS

\*1528. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sikh pilgrims who visited their religious shrines in Pakistan during the period January to May, 1952;

(b) the number of Hindu pilgrims who visited their religious shrines in Pakistan during the same period; and

(c) the number of Muslims from Pakistan who visited their religious shrines in India during the said period?

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

- (a) 460.
- (b) 99.
- (c) 681.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether the pilgrims visiting the two countries are free, during the time allowed for them, to visit places of their choice?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** No, Sir. They can only go to places where the shrines are situated.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I now the number of important Hindu and Sikh religious shrines in Pakistan and the places where they are situated?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I could not give a list of all the shrines in Pakistan. I can, however, give the names of the places which were visited by the Indian parties. The Sikh parties visited: Punjasaheb; Gurudwara Sacha Saudha, Nankanaasaheb; and the Samadhi of Guru Arjundeve at Lahore. The Hindus visited the shrines Gujranwala; the Samadhi and Dev Ashram at Lahore and the temples in Multan.

**Shri Namdhari:** In view of the fact that if only such meagre numbers are allowed to visit the holy shrines, then only twenty thousand people will be able to perform pilgrimage in the next twenty years, may I know whether Government will consider the desirability of taking steps for the mass pilgrimage facilities on both sides in order to enable these persons to earn the blessings of the Almighty Father?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Government hopes that people's habits may change meanwhile.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is the number of pilgrims limited by the Government to whom the request is made, or is any maximum fixed by either Government?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** No maximum is fixed. The requests are made by the parties and they are transmitted to the Pakistan Government. In some cases permission is given and in others it is refused. Similarly, Government of India may allow or refuse permission to Pakistan parties which intend to visit Muslim shrines in India.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Recently a conference was convened consisting of

certain Hindus and Sikhs in India on this subject. Was there any specific object behind the conference and if so, what was the result?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I require notice.

**Shri Dabhi:** What arrangements are made for the management of Hindu and Sikh temples in Pakistan?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is assumed that proper management is there and pilgrims can easily visit them.

#### SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION IN U. S. A.

\*1530. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. are subsidising their synthetic rubber industry to an undetermined extent and with the cheap production of synthetic rubber, the rubber boom will end?

(b) If so, what effect will it have on our rubber industry?

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

(b) The Indian rubber growing industry will not be affected as it is a protected industry.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** Is it a fact that the International Rubber Study Group that met at Ottawa has made certain recommendations for stabilising the rubber industry of the world?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

**Shri Venkataraman:** May I ask how the price of Indian rubber compares with the price of rubber in other parts of the world?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** I have answered that question previously. The price of Indian rubber is Rs. 128 for 100 lbs. The price of rubber in the London market is ranging between 2 shillings and slightly above 2 shillings. It was only 2 shillings recently. The prices are now hardening. Today I think the price is somewhere about a penny or two pence more. It is fluctuating.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether synthetic rubber products are being imported into India and if so, are they cheaper than goods made from local rubber?