

(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?

Shri Karmarkar: I do not think synthetic rubber products are being imported.

Shri P. T. Chacko: The hon. Minister said that the Indian rubber industry will not be affected. May I know whether it is because the controlled price of rubber in India is much lower than the price outside India?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir. At the moment I am informed that in certain markets the outside price is Rs. 122 per 100 lbs. whereas our controlled price is higher; it is Rs. 128.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether the price Rs. 128 for hundred pounds is only one-third of the price for which we import rubber from outside India?

Shri Karmarkar: We import a little of the rubber that we need; about one-third the quantity.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know the reason, Sir, why the controlled price is much less than the price we give for rubber which is imported into India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is not now correct. It was correct last year and the year before. I answered this question some time back and I said the price of rubber namely in Malaya reached the high limits of 4 sh. 8½d. per lb. and imports of small quantities came into India at that time. Actually our production of raw rubber is 16,000 tons per annum and our requirements are 20,000 tons. At the moment there is almost parity between Indian price and world price.

Shri Joachim Alva: What steps have Government taken in regard to complaints made in the old Parliament that vested interests in the manufacture of rubber like Dunlops were interested in keeping the rate down in regard to rubber?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter of past history. The present position, as I said, is fairly satisfactory.

ACID DYES AND SULPHA DRUGS

*1532. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what quantities of acid dyes and sulphur drugs we consume every year and from where we import them and at what cost?

(b) How much will the Atul factory produce per year?

(c) What is the initial expenditure incurred for the establishment of the factory?

(d) What will be the yearly saving if these materials are manufactured in the country?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 42.]

(b) The factory is expected to produce:

Acid Dyes ...	860,000 lbs.
Sulpha Drugs ...	250,000 lbs.

(c) Information is not available.

(d) About Rs. 20 lakhs in the case of acid dyes and nearly a crore of Rupees in the case of Sulpha drugs if present expectations materialise.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether there are any other factories, besides the Atul factory, which are manufacturing these drugs?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir, there are factories. But they are not manufacturing to capacity for one thing and their production is very small.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know the name of the firms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think the question was answered on the floor of the House before. I would like to have notice. I do not carry the names of these firms in my memory.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: How does the cost of production in our factories here compare with the import price of this drug?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The new factory is yet to go into production and until it starts producing we won't have comparative figures. Even in the case of May and Baker's factory, though its capacity for production is known, it has not gone into full production yet.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know the Indian and foreign capital invested in the Atul Factory?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The authorised capital of the industry is Rs. 5 crores. Out of this 10 per cent. is American-owned. In addition, a royalty of 2½ per cent. is payable to the foreign company on the nett sale value. The capital issued is Rs. 1 crore.

Shri Velayudhan: What is the company's share?