

(d) whether the Committee has subsequently recorded its opinion on the above reduction; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what is its opinion and suggestion?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Figures of Indian production for 1950 and 1951 are not yet available, but in 1949-50 Travancore-Cochin accounted for 38 per cent. of the country's total production.

(b) The reduction was effected in order to bring down the price of copra and coconut oil to a healthy level and afford relief to consumers, industrial and domestic.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir, Not in those terms the communication from the Indian Central Coconut Committee requested the Central Government to ensure that copra and coconut oil are not imported to the detriment of the interest of the indigenous industry, and that the Committee might be consulted before any decisions on such matters are taken.

(e) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF COIR YARN

***1560. Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export of coir yarns and products from the ports of Cochin and Alleppey in the years 1950 and 1951 and to which countries;

(b) if there was a reduction in 1951 the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are taken to get new markets outside India for coir products; and

(d) whether Government made any enquiry about the various other products manufactured out of raw husk and fibre in Ceylon?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Export figures for the ports of Cochin and Alleppey are not recorded separately in the Trade accounts. A statement of the total exports of coir yarn and coir products from India to various countries is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 50.]

About 80 per cent. of exports are generally from the ports of Cochin and Alleppey.

(b) There has been some reduction in total exports of coir yarn and coir products in 1951 as compared with

1950. The value of exports in 1951 was, however, higher than that in 1950. As compared with 1949, exports in 1951 were substantially higher. The reason for these variations is fluctuations in foreign demand.

(c) Efforts are made through Indian Trade Commissioners abroad to stimulate exports.

(d) Some enquiries in this respect were made by the Panel on "Coir, Rope, Cordage and other Fibre Industries" which submitted their report in 1947. In their opinion no serious competition was expected from Ceylon in coir industry.

PENICILLIN FACTORY

***1561. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the amount of the loss, if any, suffered by Government on account of the failure of tripartite negotiations with Messrs. Karnbolaget of Sweden and Messrs. Merck of U.S.A. for the setting up of a factory for the manufacture of penicillin?

(b) The reasons for Government's decision not to undertake the manufacture of sulpham and anti-malarial drugs?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Government of India were committed to pay in instalments to Messrs. Karnbolaget Rs. 2,33,100 in all under the terms of the agreement. Of this Rs. 1,39,900 had been paid before Government decided to terminate the agreement and the balance has been paid after that decision. In view of certain technical assistance, already received by Government from the Swedish firm, including advice regarding the setting up of the Bottling Plant at Bombay, and the training of two Indian technical personnel, it is not considered that there has been any loss.

(b) World Health Organisation and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the two organisations in Collaboration with whom the Government is now planning to set up the factory, offered technical and financial assistance in respect of the manufacture of penicillin only and the Government therefore decided to give up the manufacture of sulpham and antimalarial drugs.

COAL TO FACTORIES AT FIROZABAD

***1562. Ch. Raghuraj Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a regular supply of coal to the various factories at Firozabad, District Agra;