

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the existing control regulations amount to decontrol at the distribution stage?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter of opinion.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE

*1781. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the figures of India's foreign sea and air borne trade on private and Government accounts since the beginning of this calendar year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The information is not available.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How long would Government take to make this information available?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of trying for the information. He said that it is not available at all.

Shri K. K. Basu: Do the Government propose to set up some machinery to collect this information?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF BIHAR MICA MINES

*1782. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Advisory Committee to advise the Central Government on matters arising out of the administration of Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946 has been constituted so far for Bihar;

(b) if so, who are the members of the Committee; and

(c) who represents the interests of labour?

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

(b) and (c). (1) **Shri R. S. Misra,** Welfare Commissioner—*Chairman*.

(2) **Shri M. R. Huda,** Mica Controller, Bihar—*Vice-Chairman*.

(3) **Shri B. P. Singh,** Commissioner of Labour, Bihar.

(4) **Shri Sukhlal Singh,** Member, Bihar Legislature.

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| (5) Shri R.G. Agarwala. | } Represent
the mica
owners
of Bihar. |
| (6) Shri Bandhanran Bhandari. | |
| (7) Shri Rameshwar Pandey. | |
| (8) Shri Hitnarain Singh. | } Represent
the Mica
miners'
association. |
| (9) Shrimati Radhika Devi. | |
| (10) Shri Shah Ramzan Ali Shah. | |

Shri N. P. Sinha: How many sittings did this Board hold during 1951?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have not got the information at present. I will be able to inform him later.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know if the Board has advised the Government that the water near about the mica mines is highly malarious and some effective arrangements should be made for supply of good drinking water?

Shri V. V. Giri: I take the information from the hon. Member. I shall issue necessary instructions.

Shri Nana Das: May I know whether a similar Committee has been appointed in the Madras State, and if so, who are its members?

Shri V. V. Giri: There is an advisory committee for the mica miners in the Gudur area.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What are the functions of this committee and how far are its decisions binding?

Shri V. V. Giri: Its function is to advise on various matters relating to the welfare of the miners.

Shri K. K. Basu: Arising out of part (c) of the question, may I know what are the specific qualifications of the labour representatives?

Shri V. V. Giri: They should be representatives of various labour organisations.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Since the supplementaries in regard to questions 1783 and 1784 are likely to overlap, may I suggest that these two questions may be taken together?

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Minister agreeable?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am entirely in the hands of the House. If you so desire, I am prepared to answer them together.

Mr. Speaker: Then Mr. Ramaswamy may put both the questions together.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They are not likely to overlap. They are different. Still, I shall put both of them together.

HANDBLOOM CLOTH (EXPORT)

*1783. **Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of handloom cloth has dwindled considerably in recent years;