

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 Hittarain 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.

HANDLOOM 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;

(b) if so, the causes of such decline; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the export in handloom cloth?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). There has been a decline in export of handloom cloth during the last two years owing to lack of demand and restrictions in foreign markets.

(c) The Government of India Trade Representatives abroad have been furnished with samples of Indian handloom textiles for exhibiting in their show rooms and have been especially asked to give wide publicity to Indian handloom cloth. In Trade Agreements also the Government of India make provision for the export of handloom cloth as far as possible. Further measures to stimulate export are under consideration.

COMPETITION BETWEEN MILLS AND HANDLOOMS

*1784. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is unrestricted competition between Mills and Handlooms in the production of all categories of cloth?

(b) Have representations been made to Government to define the field of production of cloth by Mills?

(c) Have representations been made to Government to prevent the Mills from producing coarse varieties of sarees and dhoties.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) There is no such unrestricted competition.

(b) Yes. Certain items of textiles have already been reserved for production exclusively by the handlooms.

(c) Yes.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are Government aware that two concrete suggestions were made at the Handloom Weavers' Conference held at Salem in April, namely, that the Central Government should help the handloom industry firstly by starting a Handloom Export Finance Corporation and secondly by sending out a trade delegation to those countries to which we have been exporting our handloom goods, so that we may study on the spot the reasons for the

decline and suggest remedies for improving the trade?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think the matter was brought to my notice by the hon. Member himself.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Do Government contemplate sending out a trade delegation for the purpose of studying the position at first hand?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There has been some suggestion from the Madras Government that they should send out people to various countries, or to the countries nearby. This matter was mentioned to me by the representative of the Madras Government when I visited Madras last. I do not know how far the matter has progressed.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are Government considering the other suggestion regarding the starting of a Handloom Export Finance Corporation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Not in the terms that my hon. friend seems to have in mind.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are Government aware that owing to lack of control over quality our export has fallen, and are Government taking any steps to ensure that only quality products are exported from our country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: To ensure that only quality products are exported in the matter of handlooms means some kind of quality control in the matter of production. At the moment, I am afraid it is rather too big a step for the Government even to contemplate.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are Government aware that there is large scale unemployment and acute distress among the handloom weavers and thousands and thousands of people have gone out of the trade and are begging even in the streets of Delhi?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Subject to a certain amount of exaggeration in the news that is usually put out, Government are aware that there is distress among the people engaged in this industry.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The hon. Minister said that there was no unrestricted competition. May I know what is the restriction? Are there defined spheres as between the mills and the handlooms.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. Mills are not permitted to produce sarees with borders exceeding 2