

Shri Veeraswamy: I want to know the intention of certain hon. Members who speak in Hindi, put questions in Hindi and also insist on their questions being printed in Hindi.

Mr. Speaker: This question has been discussed very often. The hon. Member need not take the time of the House on this. Let us go to the next question.

RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS

***1790. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating a measure by which to restrict the imports of such articles as are manufactured in India;

(b) what is the process by which the proposed restrictions are to be imposed, and

(c) what are the articles that are in view of the Government for such treatment?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is the Government contemplating to put any restriction on the quantity of imports?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know what the hon. Member has in mind. If the hon. Member has in mind that the import policy of the Government is so utilised as to confer positive protection to certain industries that claim that they are manufacturing those articles in this country, I can say that that is not the policy of the Government. In framing the import policy, Government do take into account the availability of a particular class of goods, the extent of the goods that are available and frame their policy. No specific demand from an industry in respect of an indirect protection of that nature is entertained by the Government.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Has the Government received any representation or complaint that the protection is not being properly used in certain cases?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question apparently has been switched on from import control to protection. If the hon. Member has any specific instance in view, and puts down a question, I shall attempt to answer.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Do Government contemplate any steps to restrict the import of foreign capital for manufacturing industries which ruin indigenous industries in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I quite concede that capital is also a form of goods; but it does not fit into this particular question.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Government aware of a statement that came out in the Press that even the Kriloskar industries had to close down for three months, being unable to compete with similar imported goods?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not aware.

Mr. Speaker: The question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SUBSTITUTES FOR JUTE BAGS AND GUNNIES

***1791. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the substitutes now in use for jute bags and gunnies;

(b) how far these can and have been able to compete with Indian jute products in price and quality; and

(c) what countries have been manufacturing and mostly using these substitutes?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Paper bags, cotton bags, and products of some other fibres similar to jute.

(b) Paper bags being the cheapest have made much headway in U.S.A. Jute bags are however once again cheap and they have an advantage over both paper bags and cotton bags from the point of view re-use value. The indications are that the consumption of jute goods will increase again.

(c) Paper bags and cotton bags are mostly manufactured and used in the U.S.A. Bags from substitute fibres like Kanaf Congo jute and Stockroo are manufactured and used mostly in Europe, South America and South Africa.

CONFERENCE ON RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS IN WASHINGTON

***1792. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of experts in flood control and irrigation was held recently in Washington in which India also took part;