

Sardar Hukam Singh: Had the machinery imported under these licences consist of certain second hand or reconditioned machinery as well?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): May I answer, Sir? As my hon. colleague has mentioned, it is rather difficult to collect the details, because it covers a very wide range. The general principles are laid down in the book, and they are followed in general. There may be a few cases here and there where these licences are given to a particular industry. Or, it may even happen that we produce some part of our needs in the country, and the balance has to be imported. These are all questions for consideration mentioned in the handbook. In regard to the particular question, the answer is we are unable to gather the information. If, however, the hon. Member has some specific instance, I will try my best to get the information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I have no such instance, Sir. But the question is: Was any reconditioned or second-hand machinery also imported under the licences. He may answer "yes" or "no".

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, Sir, the difficulty of collecting this information makes it difficult for me to say in so many words "yes" or "no".

Sardar Hukam Singh: Were these licences given on account of the fact that our requirements exceeded our manufacture, or were there any other reasons for giving these licences?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would again invite the attention of the hon. Member to the conditions laid down in that book which will probably satisfy him. If there is anything else he wants, and if he tables another question, I will do my best to answer.

PASSPORTS TO GO TO CHINA

*878. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians applied for passports and visas to go to China for the May Day celebration on invitations received from the Chinese Peoples' Trade Union organisations; and

(b) how many were given the same?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) As far as the Government of India are aware, 35 persons applied for passport facilities to go to China for the May Day celebrations,

on invitations received from the Chinese Peoples' Trade Union organisations.

(b) 28.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether Government will be able to explain the grounds of refusal of passports to some of the delegates who wanted to go to China?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly, but they do not propose to do so.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether Government will be able to give the reasons why the passports to some members were refused while others were allowed to go?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They are perfectly prepared to give, but they do not propose to do so.

Mr. Speaker: He does not wish to disclose that information now.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, why it cannot be stated?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must accept the decision of the Government on that point.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if Government have information that one of the applicants from Bihar received his passport two months after the due date of departure for China?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: He should congratulate himself that he got it at all.

Mr. Speaker: The answer is very clear that Government does not want to disclose the information.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know why there is this hilarity on the part of the Prime Minister in being prepared with his reasons, but not being prepared to divulge these reasons?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am really surprised at this question, Sir. Am I supposed to go into individual cases,—of individual conduct or misconduct in this House at question time, and go into the life history of every individual? I am really surprised. I ask if any Government so far has been so generous in issuing passports than this Government, barring none in the world?

UGANDA COTTON (IMPORT)

*879. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how much Uganda Cotton is going to be imported in the year 1952-53;

(b) the quality of the cotton;

(c) how the price of Uganda Cotton will compare with other varieties of imported cotton; and

(d) whether any final agreement has been arrived at with Uganda Lint Marketing Board for the import of cotton?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) For the year 1952, 1,60,000 bales of Uganda cotton is being imported.

(b) It is long staple cotton with staple length above 1-1/8".

(c) The only comparable variety is Calafornian cotton the price of which was quoted at Rs. 2,000 per candy at the time of the Agreement for purchase of the Uganda cotton. In fineness, spinning value and staple length the Uganda cotton is superior to Calafornian. The negotiated price of Uganda cotton was therefore Rs. 2,405 per candy including freight charges and import duty.

(d) Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the purchase was made on a barter basis?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this kind of cotton has been used for the manufacture of all kinds of cloth or only special varieties of cloth in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Apparently, it is used for fine and also superfine varieties.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government is importing cotton more from the dollar area than from the sterling area?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Government has not come to the position when they have to decide future policy. At the moment we are importing cotton from the United States of America, Egypt, Sudan and Uganda. The larger quantity undoubtedly, is from the United States of America.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know the quantity of this cotton imported in 1951-52?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The latest agreement in regard to Uganda cotton with the Uganda Lint Marketing Board was to take two-thirds of

their crops, which comes to about 1,33,000 bales.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know the rate per candy?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The rate is a thing which we have not decided, but it is expected to be somewhere in the region of Rs. 2,400.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it is true that most of the Uganda cotton in India is used for manufacturing yarn?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: All cotton is used for the manufacture of yarn.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I mean whether it is used in the manufacture of yarn for handlooms and other purposes?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I require notice.

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RAW-MATERIALS

*880. **Shri B. E. Bhagat:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the control on the international distribution of raw-materials will be continued?

(b) If so, what is the plan of allocation of the scarce raw-materials in the year 1952?

(c) To what extent was the allocation of such raw-materials made, as India needed them, in her favour in the year 1951?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Present expectations are that since the conditions which necessitated the creation of the International Materials Conference continue to exist, the international distribution of such of the raw materials which are still in short supply will continue.

(b) The Commodity Committees constituted for each of the scarce raw materials functioning under the International Materials Conference, formulate the principles of allocation, after taking into account the demands of all countries and ration the available supplies on the basis of the agreed principles.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 9.]

Shri B. E. Bhagat: May I know whether the allocation for the year 1952 has been determined by the International Materials Conference?