

Shri Pecker Saheb: May I know what is the provision under law under which this monopoly is exercised by the Government?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall go into the history of the matter and then let the hon. Member know about it.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: May I know whether there has recently been a report by the Special Officer of Madras Government, in regard to the conditions in these islands, including the question under discussion now?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. That is partly true. The Special Inspection Officer, it appears, has made a report on the question of free trade which will be further examined by the State Government, with reference to the suggestion made by him.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: May I ask whether before any final action is taken a copy of the report will be placed on the Table of this House?

Shri Karmarkar: We shall consider the question.

FOOD MATERIALS (IMPORT & EXPORT)

*1043. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of food materials imported in the year 1951-52; and

(b) whether food materials were exported from India in the year 1951-52 and, if so, the total value of such exports?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 258.46 crores of which Rs. 230 crores represent foodgrains.

(b) No foodgrains are exported. The total value of other food articles in 1951-52 was Rs. 146 crores of which Rs. 93 crores represent tea, Rs. 30 crores represent spices and about Rs. 9 crores represent cashew nuts.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know what percentage share of the import trade was accounted for by these food imports?

Shri Karmarkar: What percentage these foodgrains would form of the total import? Well, I should like to have notice. But I am informed it is about 20 per cent, Sir.

IMPORTS FROM BRITAIN

*1044. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of imports made by Britain from India during the first quarter of this calendar year; and

(b) the total amount of Indian purchases of British goods during the corresponding period?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Rs. 37.9 crores.

(b) Rs. 45.3 crores.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the import and export position of our country was more favourable in the corresponding period last year?

Shri Karmarkar: In respect of the United Kingdom? So far as I could say offhand, last year it had been adverse to us.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, what were the chief items because of which the import and export position of our country became favourable this year?

Shri Karmarkar: The items are about the same, but the quantities vary.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know the names of the articles imported so far?

Shri Karmarkar: The items are about 52 in number, but I could mention some—bobbins, soda bicarbonate, cutlery, hardware, etc.

COTTON (EXPORT)

*1045. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton so far exported from this country during this calendar year; and

(b) what were the varieties of cotton thus exported?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 41].

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know, Sir, what is the total number of bales that is intended to be exported?

Shri Karmarkar: Well, Sir, the plan is to export, I think, round about 300,000 bales.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is there any intention to increase this quota of export since the prices have fallen because of this non-usable cotton being still in the market?

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid I could not give a speculative reply.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know, Sir whether the cotton which was exported was not wanted by the mills in India?

Shri Karmarkar: Well, Sir, a large part of it was such cotton as could not be spinnable here. I understand a small portion of it could be spinnable, but in view of the cotton surplus we permitted that to go.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: What is the staple of this cotton which is exported?

Shri Karmarkar: I think a large part of it is very short-staple, and a portion of it, about 50,000 bales, is 11/16" staple.

BONUS TO TEXTILE WORKERS

*1046. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what was the rate of bonus given to the textile workers of Ahmedabad for the years 1950 and 1949?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): One-sixth of the annual basic wages earned by workers.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, if any of the mills were exceptions to this rate of bonus?

Shri V. V. Giri: There were some exceptions.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What rate did they give?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think that matter is still pending.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What was the rate in 1951, Sir?

Shri V. V. Giri: I want notice. The hon. Member asked for 1949 and 1950 only.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the hon. Minister seen the profits made by the textile industry and is there any intention to ask them to increase the bonuses to be given to labour?

Shri V. V. Giri: The matter was referred by the parties to the Appellate Tribunal. They have decided the matter.

श्री गणपति राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतला सकते हैं कि बनारस काटन मिल में भी बोनस सिस्टम चालू है और यदि है तो वह किस परिमाण में है ?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question relates to the Ahmedabad textile workers.

D.V.C. (CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER)

*1047. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Chief Information Officer for the D.V.C.; and

(b) if so—

(i) what are his functions and duties;

(ii) what are his emoluments;

(iii) what are the terms of his appointment; and

(iv) whether his appointment has been approved by Government?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) to (iii). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 42].

(b) (iv). Under Section 6 (3) of the D.V.C. Act, the Corporation is competent to appoint its Chief Information Officer. The approval of the Government of India is not necessary.

Shri A. C. Guha: From the statement, Sir, I find that the emoluments of this officer would amount to Rs. 1975 per month. Is it not within the contemplation of Government that posts carrying such a high salary should come within the purview of Government's approval?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is making a suggestion for action.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is there any Selection Committee appointed for making this appointment?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There is another question, Sir, about Selection Committee. Presumably, the appointment was referred to the appropriate Selection Committee. But I have no information in regard to this particular appointment.

Shri A. C. Guha: From the statement I find, that one of his functions is to collect and study literature on river valley and allied activities from other countries also. May I know, Sir, if the present incumbent has any technical knowledge on these matters, or whether it was also considered that this knowledge was necessary for it?