

THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

1901

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, the 21st July, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past  
Eight of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Sibnarayan Singh Mehapatra  
(Sundargarh—Reserved—Sch. tribes).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COFFEE

\*1872. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of production of Coffee in India in 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) how much of the quantity produced was exported and how much was used for home consumption;

(c) the names of countries to which Coffee is exported; and

(d) which other countries grow Coffee?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 11.]

(c) During the last 3 years, coffee was largely exported to the following countries: The U.K., France, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Burma, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Egypt, Czechoslovakia and Ceylon.

(d) The main coffee producing countries are: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Angola and French West Africa.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know the method of allocation of coffee for internal consumption and export?

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**Shri Karmarkar:** I would like to claim the indulgence of the House and make the following submission. Many times questions are asked which do not arise mainly out of the main question. For instance the main question in this case relates to production and export, while the supplementary relates to method of allocation. I would like to submit that for questions like this, we are bound to ask for notice.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does it mean that the hon. the Minister wants notice for this question?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I beg to submit, Sir, that this does arise out of the main question. Therefore I ask for notice.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I submit, Sir, that in the main question I have asked for the amount of internal consumption also? However may I know whether a small portion of the coffee produced is disposed in order to keep up the prices here? If so, how is that system working?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** Sir, the work is done by the Coffee Board. All coffee produced is received in a pool, and the coffee powder released for internal consumption through auctions, co-operative agencies and the India Coffee House; and for export through tenders. The allocation is decided on the extent and nature of the coffee available; the hon. Member will see from the statement furnished to him that in 1950-51, the allotment for export was considerably reduced.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know which of the two kinds of coffee,—the Pea Berry or the native Flat,—is welcomed by foreigners?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am afraid I have to ask for notice.

**Shri Altekarr:** What is the value of the coffee produced in this country?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I have got only the quantities with me here and not the value.

**Kumari Anne Mascarene:** May I know the price of coffee here for consumption within the country?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The hon. Member could get the information, if she goes to the India Coffee House.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is it a fact that only specified number of persons are allowed to bid at the auction for release of coffee for internal consumption?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I cannot give any answer without verification. Actually this is done by the coffee board.

**Kumari Anne Mascarene:** On a point of order, Sir.....

**Mr. Speaker:** There may be so many points of order, but let us not take the time from the question hour.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know what is the quantity of coffee exported to the United States? In view of the fact that that country consumes an enormous amount of coffee, what efforts are being made to popularise Indian coffee there? And what is the rate of expansion of our exports to that country from year to year?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** In regard to details of quantities exported to countries abroad, countrywise, I am afraid I have to ask for notice. But in regard to popularisation of our Coffee in the United States, the hon. Member will recollect that the quantity available for export is so small that it would not be worth our while to spend any money on doing propaganda for our coffee elsewhere.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. lady Member can state her point of order now.

**Kumari Anne Mascarene:** The price of coffee varies in the different parts of the country. I asked the hon. the Minister whether it is fixed by Government and the answer given by the hon. the Minister is that I should go and ask the India Coffee House. That does not require his advice.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** From the statement, I find that the home consumption of coffee is increasing day by day. May I know whether any steps have been taken by the Government to produce more coffee in places other than South India also?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am afraid this is a matter on which it is very difficult for my Ministry to give an answer, because the Coffee Board

is almost an autonomous body. Its set up is such that one section of it does research work in regard to yield and additional plantation, while the other section is working purely on the marketing side. There is very little co-ordination between the two sections, except through the Chairman of the Board. I quite realise that Government's control in this matter is not adequate, and so we are considering proposals for amendment of the Act, so that there will be co-ordinated activity between the Government and the Coffee Board. But at the moment, I am unable to give any definite reply.

#### DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST BENGAL

**\*1873. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total number of displaced persons from East Bengal who have been admitted into camps or sent direct to rehabilitation colonies since the 1st April, 1951?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** The number of displaced persons admitted into camps is 93,159 and those sent to rehabilitation colonies direct is 12,972.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know the daily average number of displaced persons that are coming at present from East Bengal?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I want notice.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** In view of the fact that the economic saturation point of West Bengal has been reached, may I know what further arrangements have been made for the displaced persons that are coming in at present?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** So far as the saturation point is concerned, opinions differ. I think there has been quite a good amount of congestion in West Bengal, and we have not made so far any arrangements outside; we are trying to make arrangements for sending West Bengal Refugees outside West Bengal. But that will ultimately depend upon the extent to which the West Bengal Government is prepared to send them out.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I draw the attention of the hon. the Minister to the Statement in the 'Hindustan Standard' of today that such a saturation point has been reached, as has been expressed by the hon. the Minister for Rehabilitation of West Bengal, and may I know whether any further arrangements have been made, as was contemplated by the hon. the Minister?