

INVITATIONS FROM CHINESE TRADE
UNIONS

***2042. Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any objection was raised by Government to the invitation by the Chinese trade union organisation of individuals chosen by the Communist Party of India for participation in the May Day celebrations at Peking; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the circle of invitees was widened so as to include other trade unionists at the instance of the Government?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). As has already been stated previously, of 35 applicants from all trade union groups, 28 were issued passports. Two applied too late for consideration. Government do not know the political affiliation of many of the persons who applied for passports. Applications came on behalf of trade union organisations. Government did not make any suggestion as to which organisation should be invited nor was the circle of invitees widened or restricted at the instance of Government. Each person's case was considered on individual merits.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: What is Government's policy in respect of invitations by foreign organisations to individuals in this country?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: To consider the cases individually.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Are the Government of India's representatives in other countries asked to report on the activities of such Indian invitees in foreign countries when they go out?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When they go out?

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: When our people go on a visit to foreign countries, are our Ambassadors or Embassies asked to report over the activities of our people there in other countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the hon. Member means by report. We do not ask anybody for any report, but naturally, if any distinguished Indian goes anywhere, in the course of his fortnightly or monthly reports our Ambassador tells us, he went here, and whatever public activities he indulged in. We normally get to know of it, but there is no special enquiry about it.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Has any one carried on anti-Indian propoganda in foreign countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: If so, who are they, when and where?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think I can answer that question.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what is the meaning of individual merit.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is plain enough.

SALT

***2043. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the quota of salt exports from West Coast ports for the period May to December, 1952 has been doubled?

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

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether sufficient quantity of salt for consumption by cattle has been first considered and kept apart before doubling this export?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, this quota for export is intended for a particular area, because Saurashtra salt is the only salt that is in demand. All relevant considerations have been taken into account before the export quota is allotted.

Shri Dabhi: What are the annual requirements of salt in our country and what is the total production?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, that falls within the category of subjects covered by the Production portfolio.

Shri Nana Das: May I know to which parts of the country salt is exported from the West Coast?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Saurashtra salt, as I said, is in great demand even in certain parts of our own country such as U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Nepal etc., but exports out of the country has been largely to Japan.

JUTE GOODS

***2044. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of jute goods exported from India dur-

ing the year 1951-52 and how it compares with the exports figures of the year 1950-51;

(b) what was the total quantity and value of exports from India during the six months preceding the reduction in export duty; and

(c) the total value and quantity of exports from India after the reduction in duty and the reasons for reduced exports?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The total quantity of jute goods exported from India during the year 1951-52, (April-March) was 8,08,985 tons valued at Rs. 270 crores against 6,48,844 tons valued at Rs. 114 crores in the same months of the year 1950-51.

(b) Total export during the six months preceding May 1952 when the last reduction in export duty took place was 3,92,600 tons valued at Rs. 118 crores.

(c) The quantity exported during May, 1952, was 69,818 tons valued at Rs. 14.99 crores. During June, 1952 66,690 tons valued approximately at Rs. 14 crores were passed for shipment. Though there was no reduction in respect of quantity there was a fall in value due to reduction in export duty and fall in prices.

REPORT ON BUILDING WORKS

***2045. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Experts for Building Works has submitted its Report; and

(b) if so, what are the chief features of that Report?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Report are available in the Library of the House. The Committee's main conclusion is that though traditional materials and building methods are generally most economical in this country traditional specifications tend to design over-safe and therefore uneconomic structures. The Committee has drawn up 7 model types of accommodation suitable for housing Government employees in different pay-ranges incorporating their ideas of utility scales of accommodation and design in an attempt to relate the capital cost of the building and its rent, the rent being kept as near as possible to the economic rent. The

Committee has also recommended the establishment of a National Building Organisation to collect, collate and disseminate technical information, as also the setting up of laboratories to test strength of materials and structures.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that some of the recently constructed buildings in Delhi have proved to be very unsatisfactory, may I know, Sir, whether this Committee has also recommended about improving the standard of buildings which are going to be constructed in future?

Shri Buragohain: I have already said, Sir, that the Committee has recommended that here should be 7 types of residential accommodation suitable for housing Government employees in different pay-ranges. They have endeavoured to examine all the aspects of the problem involved and in recommending the types of houses they have paid attention to the following factors: (a) requirements of health and sanitation, (b) avoidance of discomfort and provision of amenities usually associated with living standards of the different income groups, and (c) relation between the capital cost of a building and its rent, the rent being as nearly as possible an economic rent in case of higher income groups. In case of lower income groups, however, the economic rent is higher than the rent actually recoverable.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Has this Committee made any suggestions in regard to improving the standards of contractors?

Shri Buragohain: I do not think they have made any recommendation with regard to selection of contractors, but they have certainly suggested economies in the matter of modification of specifications. As an example, I might inform the hon. Member that recently we requested this Committee to go into the specifications and design of estimates made for certain constructions and after examining them they suggested an economy of 26.1 per cent.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, if the report has been circulated to the States for the guidance?

Shri Buragohain: The position, Sir, is that after the report was published it was found out that certain parts of the report have been copied from other publications. The matter was taken up with the Secretary of the Committee and he has admitted to have copied like that, and now the report is being examined for redrafting. After it is done, it will be duly published. At the present moment, some copies are placed