

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 30th May, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SALT TO JAPAN

*294. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Japan imports salt from India?

(b) If so, what quantity of salt was exported from India to Japan during the year 1951-52?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A quantity of 62,490 tons was exported during 1951-52.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What quantity of salt is expected to be exported to Japan this year?

Shri Karmarkar: About the same quantity, as in the previous year.

श्री गोविन्द दास : अब नमक का इस देश में कुछ आयात तो नहीं होता है और नमक की जितनी यहाँ जरूरत है, उतना यहाँ पैदा हो जाता है और काम चल जाता है ?

[Seth Govind Das: Is any salt imported into this country now and is the production of salt here commensurate with the requirements of the country?]

श्री कर्मरकर : जी नहीं, नमक का यहाँ पर आयात नहीं होता, हमारा नमक

का पहले प्रोडक्शन रिक्वायरमेंट २६ लाख टन रहा। जबकि नमक यहाँ २७ लाख टन पैदा किया गया और जाने वाले वर्ष में २८ लाख टन पैदा होगा, इसलिये हमारे यहाँ के लिये तो नमक काफी पैदा हो रहा है और हम अपना नमक बाहर भेज सकते हैं।

[Shri Karmarkar: No Sir, salt is not imported now. Previously the production requirement of salt was 26 lakh tons, while the quantity produced was 27 lakh tons. In the coming year, it is expected to be 28 lakh tons. Our production of salt is considerable now and we can export it.]

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Was this salt exported on a Government to Government basis or through private trade channels?

Shri Karmarkar: Subject to correction, on a private basis.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Are Government aware that in the interior parts of India salt is still not available to the consumer?

Shri Karmarkar: This question relates to export to Japan. If the hon. Member wants to put a question on internal consumption he may give notice of it.

Mr. Speaker: These questions were dealt with a few days ago on the floor of this House.

श्री जसनी : किन २ बन्दरगाहों से नमक निर्यात हुआ था ?

[Shri Jasrani: Through which ports was the salt exported?]

Shri Karmarkar: To Japan the export has been largely through the

Saurashtra port. The Japanese presumably seem to like the Saurashtra salt.

COARSE AND MEDIUM CLOTH (SALE)

*297. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to permit mills to sell coarse and medium cloth to buyers of their own choice up to 80 per cent. of the cloth packed?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Yes, Sir. The mills have been granted this concession in respect of cloth packed during April and May 1952 for the present.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether a proposal for the downward revision of the prices of coarse and medium cloth has been discussed for the next month?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The price of cloth is fixed from time to time by the Textile Commissioner in consultation with the interests concerned. I believe at the moment the Textile Commissioner is engaged in attempting to fix the prices for the month of June and thereafter the procedure followed is what is called the Tariff Board formula, which is rather a difficult thing to explain in answer to a question. But it is undoubtedly a fact that prices are reviewed from time to time, taking into consideration all the relevant factors that have come into being, when the review is undertaken.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government propose to end the frequent revision of cloth prices in favour of a price policy for a longer duration?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If conditions in this country are of such a nature that the Government is able to project into the future and estimate the position in the future correctly, we will probably follow the suggested policy but as things are at present I am afraid the Government cannot commit itself to any definite answer in this regard.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Could the Minister tell us the position of the demand for handloom coarse cloth?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question of handloom cloth is not quite the direct concern of the Textile Commissioner who operates the cloth control but that of State Governments.

We are collecting information regarding the position of handloom cloth. We know that the position is not very good at the moment but I am not able to commit myself to any definite answer.

पंडित सी० एन० मलवीय : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मिलों को जो अस्सी फीसदी कपड़ा बेचने का या डिस्पोज करने का अख्तियार है, वह मुकामी व्यापारियों को ओवरलुक करके बाहर भी बेच सकते हैं, और क्या गवर्नमेंट उन पर कोई इसके लिये पाबन्दी लगा सकती है ?

[Pandit C. N. Malviya: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Mills, which have been authorized to dispose of 80 per cent. of cloth, can overlook the local dealers and sell it outside; and whether Government would impose any restriction on them in this connection?]

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is that the control that was operating hitherto was one that was arrived at in consultation with the State Government. The States appointed nominees to lift the goods from the mills and a large percentage of production was earmarked for that purpose. What has happened is that since the beginning of the year the State nominees have not taken up their goods and the States have been addressed asking them to persuade their nominees to take up the goods. If they do not take it up naturally we have to allow the mills to dispose of it according to their own convenience.

पंडित सी० एन० मलवीय : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय के इत्तम में यह बात आई है कि भूपाल में वहां के कपड़ा व्यापारी ऐक्स मिल प्राइस पर कपड़ा लेने को तैयार हैं, इस पर भी वहां के जो सेल एजेंट्स हैं, वह कपड़ा बाहर भेजते हैं तो क्या इस सिलसिले में कोई रिप्रेजेंटेशन हुआ है ?

[Pandit C. N. Malviya: Is the hon. Minister aware that in spite of the fact that cloth dealers in Bhopal are prepared to purchase cloth at ex-Mill prices, the Sale Agents are exporting it? Has any representation been received in this connection?]