

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether our Trade Commissioners appointed in other countries cannot do anything to regain markets for Indian commodities?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The position is that pepper is one of our chief articles of export in which we are interested as it gets foreign exchange. The fluctuations in the market cause uneasiness in the minds of the Ministry as they do in the minds of the trade. And here I would like to amend the answer given by my hon. colleague. The quality generally is supposed to be varying and that is why there have been certain adverse reactions in the export market. But Government is doing all that is possible. Our Trade Commissioners are certainly told to find out why there is a fall in the demand and the causes therefor. But beyond that I do not think the Government can do anything.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Are the Government aware that the falling of the price of pepper is causing great hardship to the pepper growers and the vast majority of pepper growers are small scale cultivators?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We are aware that any fluctuations in trade causes hardship to people who are engaged in the trade or the person who produce, but actually these fluctuations are not caused by Government. I think, if my hon. friend will look into the figures of prices of pepper now, he will find that the market has hardened lately.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know Sir, what is the present export rate of duty on pepper?

Shri Karmarkar: The export duty is 30 per cent.

TEXTILES (IMPORT)

*313. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the import of foreign textiles has been completely stopped and if not, the extent of textile goods imported in 1951-52?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No, Sir. A statement showing the value of such goods imported during the year 1951-52 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix, II, annexure No. 19.]

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know on what basis this is allotted to States?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think there is any allotment as such. I say this subject to correction. If my hon. friend wants a very precise answer, I would like to have notice.

TRADE WITH U.S.S.R. AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

*314. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of trade in rupees (import and export separately) between India and the countries of Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. during 1951-52;

(b) the chief items of import and export and the values of the quantities imported and exported; and

(c) whether the trade was regulated by trade agreements?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Two statements giving the required information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 20.]

(c) Letters were exchanged with Hungary and Poland for the regulation of trade with those countries and have been publicised. Trade talks with Czechoslovakia are now in progress for the conclusion of a fresh Agreement, the last Trade Agreement with that country having expired in March 1951.

Dr. M. M. Das: The total values of export and import of the countries given in the statement when individually taken do not balance each other. As for example, our export to Russia amounts to Rs. 6 crores 67 lakhs, whereas our imports from U.S.S.R. amounts to Rs. 1 crore and 38 lakhs. I would like to know how the balance has been paid to India.

Shri Karmarkar: In the usual manner. As a matter of fact, my hon. friend knows that any adverse or favourable balance is not actually paid in cash. It is adjusted against their account. For instance, with Russia, we have got an arrangement by which we pay into an English Bank and they receive the money through it. This is how it is arranged.

Mr. Speaker: The question is how does India get about Rs. 5 crores.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): By surplus elsewhere.

Dr. M. M. Das: I was under the impression that Russia does not fall