

taking to encourage the bidi industry in view of the fact that the industry is in a dying stage now?

Shri V. V. Giri: I do not know whether it is correct information, but I take it from the hon. Member.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government is aware that in Madras children even below the age of 12 are being used and false ages are given?

Shri V. V. Giri: I take it that the State Government is trying its best to see that the provisions of the Act are properly implemented.

TRADE WITH CANADA

*316. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether this country has any trade relations with Canada?

(b) If so, what are the articles exported to Canada?

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

(b) A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 21.]

SHIP-BUILDING

*317. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether any attempt has been made to build war ships in India?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): No attempt has been made.

Shri M. R. Krishna: How long will it take to produce war ships in India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot tell definitely how soon we will be able to produce warships. The whole matter is in the planning stage. I am afraid I am not in a position to divulge any further information in the public interest.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that India has not got large ships, may I know whether ships required for commercial purposes will be given preference?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes; we are building commercial ships only. The question of building naval warships will be taken up later.

BALANCE OF TRADE

*318. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the balance of trade position in April—December, 1951?

(b) To what extent is it affected by shipping freights paid on imports and exports?

(c) How is the shipping freight distributed between Indian and non-Indian shipping companies?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Balance of Trade position in the period April-December 1951. was as follows:

(In crores of Rupees)		
Imports	Exports and re-exports	Balance.
695.39	563.39	132.00

(b) and (c). Information is not readily available with the Government. I am afraid the expenditure of time and effort required to collect it will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Shri Barman: Is the Government in a position to give some idea as to the increase in the tonnage of Indian shipping in the last two or three years?

Shri Karmarkar: I should require notice.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the Indian shipping companies get enough load in their trade with other countries both in their outgoing and incoming journey? Will the Government keep an eye on Indian shipping companies getting enough load?

Shri Karmarkar: I think these questions may be addressed to the proper Ministry on proper notice.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the Government keeps an eye as to whether the goods that come from other countries, that is goods that are imported into India, are insured with Indian companies?

Shri Karmarkar: I think Government are taking all possible steps in the interests of Indian shipping. I am afraid I am not competent to answer all these questions....

Mr. Speaker: He need not try to answer. I am saying that the question is too wide and goes into too many details. It is not also covered by the question.