

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether there are American experts in this organisation?

Shri Nanda: There are no such experts.

IMPORT OF SILK

*10. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the quantity of silk imported upto the end of September in 1952 from Italy and Japan?

(b) How far has it affected the prices of indigenous silk goods?

(c) What action have Government taken to stabilise the prices of silk yarn, fabrics and cocoons?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Imports of raw silk from Japan were 231,347 lbs. There were no imports from Italy.

(b) Raw silk imports have not affected the prices of indigenous silk fabrics.

(c) The Government's policies regarding import of raw silk and protection to the Sericulture Industry are aimed at securing fair and reasonable prices for cocoon and raw silk producers.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has made any assessment of the total demand of silk in the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: An estimate has been made by the Tariff Board and the demand has been put down at a figure of 4 million pounds.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what is the total amount of fabrics, yarn and cocoons produced in the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member wants production in regard to raw silk, I can give the figure but not in regard to fabrics. I have got the figures for 1949-50 and 1951-52 upto September 1952—1,168,695 lbs.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any representation from mills, Handloom and Powerloom's Associations to stop further imports?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir these representations have been coming in. As a matter of fact industries always want something to be done in matters which affect them. But at the moment no imports are coming in.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have collected data with regard to the people unemployed so far due to the closure of the mills?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid not.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What about import from Italy?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is no import from Italy.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Has import from Italy been banned or there has been no demand?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid I cannot answer that question precisely.

Shri Nambiar: May I know if the Government are aware that a large number of workers are unemployed due to this crisis in the Mysore State in the silk industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can take the information from the hon. Member.

CUSTOMS UNION WITH FRENCH SETTLEMENTS

*11. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there is a proposal between the Government of India and the French Government for the re-establishment of the Customs Union between India and the French Settlements in India?

(b) If so, what is the nature of the proposal?

(c) At what stage is the negotiation?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). Such a proposal was made and the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer given by me on the 28th May, 1952, to question No. 20 in the Council of States. The proposal was to revive the Customs Union Agreement of 1941 with such modifications as may be considered necessary.

Some correspondence has taken place with the French Government on this subject. The situation in the French Settlements in India has, however, greatly deteriorated and the Government of India have now suggested to the French Government that the only approach to the question of these settlements is to discuss the question on the basis of their union with India.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know how long the previous arrangement lasted?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Customs Union?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: A number of years; I could not say exactly. Four or five years. I am not quite clear about the period.

Shri A. M. Thomas: What was the reason for stopping the same?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As far as I remember, certain changes were suggested to the original arrangement and they were not agreed to by the parties concerned. So, it lapsed.

Shri Kelappan: Is the Government aware that large quantities of contraband articles are being sent to these possessions as gift parcels or family parcels and then they are smuggled out of the French possessions into the Indian Union?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know that there is a great deal of smuggling going on. Does the hon. Member refer to some special parcels being sent?

Shri Kelappan: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: By whom?

Shri Kelappan: From Malaya and Hong Kong family parcels or gift parcels weighing, say, ten pounds are sent to the French possessions and from there smuggled into the Indian Union.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is perfectly true that there is a great deal of smuggling. I have no doubt that, as the hon. Member says, family parcels are sent. In what quantity, I cannot say.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: How is it proposed to check this large scale smuggling?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: So long as the present arrangement lasts, that is, so long as these settlements do not become parts of the Union of India, the only way to stop that is to have as efficient customs barriers as possible.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: Do Government contemplate rigid economic sanctions as regards the French possessions in India?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid, I do not see how this question arises.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am prepared to answer, Sir. This question arises because some people have got economic sanctions in their head without relation to facts or reality.

EVACUEE PROPERTY DISPUTE

*12. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is under the consideration of Government to refer the question of evacuee property to an international tribunal or to arbitration?

(b) Have the Government of Pakistan placed any such proposal before the Government of India?

(c) Has the statement of Dr. I. H. Qureshi, Pakistan's Minister for Refugees, that India is finding excuses for confiscation of property left by Muslims by illegal means come to the notice of Government?

(d) If so, what is the answer to that charge?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (**Shri A. P. Jain**): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

As the House is aware, there has been a prolonged stalemate with the Government of Pakistan over the evacuee property question. Without going into the history of the negotiations, I might state the facts of the present situation.

Immovable property of evacuees is divisible into two parts—rural and urban. So far as the rural evacuee property is concerned, the intention of the Governments of India and Pakistan has all along been that they should assume responsibility therefore and settle the values on a Governmental level. The Government of Pakistan have already settled refugees on evacuees agricultural land and allotted rural houses under a scheme which that Government calls "provisionally permanent". The Government of India have, likewise, in the States of Punjab and P.E.P.S.U. settled displaced persons on evacuee agricultural lands and rural houses generally on a quasi-permanent basis. Five years have already elapsed since the migration of displaced persons from and to Pakistan. It cannot now be contemplated that the land or rural houses can be sold or disposed of by evacuee owners. For all these reasons the Government of India feel that the problem of the settlement of rural evacuee property can no longer be delayed either in the interests of the evacuees or of displaced persons, and the settlement has in the very nature of things to be at governmental level.

In so far as urban immovable property is concerned, for the last five years evacuees from either country