

1,38,216 complete bicycles valued at Rs. 1,42,45,338/- were imported.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any progressive increase in demand for bicycles in the country and if that is correct, what is the percentage of increase per year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, these are mere estimates. The Tariff Commission, from time to time, estimated the demand from three lakhs to three and half lakhs and four lakhs. The Development Wing attached to the Commerce and Industry Ministry is also estimating it from time to time and it has now estimated it to be about five lakhs. Therefore, Sir, it is merely a matter of estimate and there is no method of assessing the progressive increase in demand with any degree of accuracy.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, for the balance of our demand, wherefrom it is being imported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, as I have said, there is a certain amount of manufacture in this country. That manufacture is progressively increasing. We expect that by the end of this year, three big plants will be almost in full production; and there are several small plants as well. The balance is made up by import from soft currency areas.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether there is any time fixed before the period concerned, when the announcement of the policy must be made?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member will perhaps know that in the policy announcement which was made sometime last month, it was indicated to the consumers that no licences would be issued for the current half year. The policy announcement for the next half year will have to be made. I cannot tell the hon. Member whether I can make the policy announcement in this matter within a stated time or not. It all depends upon the stocks position.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, whether indigenous bicycles compare favourably with the imported bicycles in the matter of price and quality?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the matter of price, I understand that they compare favourably and in the matter of quality I think they are equally good.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What is the total production of Hindustan cycles in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: During the year 1952, up to September, it was 3506, and the figures indicate a progressive increase.

Shri Basappa: Is it a fact that Members of Parliament are using cycles?

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know the increase in production of the Hindustan bicycles?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not able to say, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister stated that the indigenous cycles compare favourably with imported cycles in price and quality. May I know, Sir, whether the Commerce Ministry has suggested to the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry that, in view of these observations, that Ministry should confine the purchase of cycles to the indigenous cycles?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is said there is under-production in our country.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Production is not adequate for the needs of the people. There is no point in asking any particular Ministry to confine its purchases to indigenous production.

PEPPER

*1027. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantity of pepper exported from India in each of the years from 1947 to 1951;

(b) the names of countries to which pepper is exported;

(c) how far the recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee urging the growers, dealers and shippers of pepper to attempt to reduce prices to a more reasonable level have been accepted and implemented; and

(d) how the Indonesian supply is competing with the Indian supply?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 11.]

(b) U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R., Italy, Canada and Western Germany.

(c) The need for Government interference in the matter has not so far arisen because the prices of pepper have more or less remained at a reasonable level.

(d) The quantity exported by Indonesia has so far been small and does not appear to have affected exports from India.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the reason for the considerable increase in the prices?

Shri Karmarkar: The reason is that foreign purchasers are giving us more.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that hoarding and speculation is also one of the factors?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, as far as we know.

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that from 1947-51, the increase in production has been 25,000 cwts. but the prices have gone up more than six times. May I know, Sir, how the production in this country did not increase in spite of the six times increase of prices of the commodity?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, pepper has to be grown and I think the individual proclivities of the people who grow has also to be considered in this matter.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there is any restriction in the exports of pepper to soft currency areas?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It was suggested, Sir, at one time, but it has not been pursued.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any complaints have come from U.S.A. about the quality of the pepper imported?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, in one case this year, there was a complaint from the other end like that.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know the total amount Government have received as export duty from pepper during these years?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire, Sir, whether the Government has got any organisation for propaganda in foreign countries to popularise our spices?

Shri Karmarkar: We have our usual methods of propaganda. We have Diplomatic channels, and trade representatives there.

Shri Kelappan: Sir, is the Government doing any research to improve the quality of pepper?

Shri Karmarkar: There have been proposals, and, as I said before in answer to another question, there is an idea of setting up fumigation plants at the various centres. But, since the amount involved is small we wanted the private industry to come into that matter.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is it not a fact, Sir, that our pepper is superior in quality to the Indonesian pepper?

Shri Karmarkar: I should love to think so.

Shri Damodara Menon: Has this Export Promotion Committee recommended any reduction of export duty?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I think the Committee asked for watching of the prices and to arrest any rise. In fact, it is advantageous to us and to the growers if higher prices could be obtained.

Shri Thanu Pillai: Sir, may I know the increase in prices which the consumer has to pay in India?

Shri Karmarkar: There has been some small rise also in the internal price of pepper. For instance, the price prevailing in September 1949, which is the earliest period for which I have got these prices, was Rs. 444-13-4 and the price in July, which is the latest figure I have for 1952, was Rs. 732-3-2. That is about export prices. The average wholesale prices of pepper at Madras in 1950 as against 1949 are Rs. 464/- as against Rs. 449-13-5.

Shri Matthen: Is the Government inclined to reconsider the very heavy export duty on pepper in order to promote the export trade?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not a question. It is a suggestion.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Export Promotion Committee has made any recommendations as regards improvement in the quality of pepper exported from India?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. They have said that quality control should be instituted.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government have taken any steps in that matter?

Shri Karmarkar: I think that when the interests concerned take steps for proper fumigation, the necessary quality will be insured.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Question No. 1028, Sir.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I request you to take up my question No. 1058 also along with this question? Both are allied.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Minister willing to answer both of them together?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir.

TILAIYA DAM

*1028. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tilaiya Dam of the Damodar Valley Project is now ready for impounding water;

(b) if so, what is the quantity which could be impounded;

(c) whether any use of the water can be made this year; and

(d) if so, in what areas and for what crops?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir; the Tilaiya Dam started impounding water on the 3rd July, 1952.

(b) About 121,000 acre-feet of water was impounded till October 1952. About three times this quantity of water will be regularly impounded from next year.

(c) Yes Sir, the water will be used:

(i) for irrigation and

(ii) for the development of power by running the two hydro-electric units which are being installed.

(d) The water can irrigate about 20,000 acres of land in West Bengal for *rabi* crops through the existing Damodar Canal System this year.

AREAS SUBMERGED BY TILAIYA DAM

*1058. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons or families have been displaced on account of the submerging of areas in Tilaiya Dam zone;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to rehabilitate them;

(c) how many acres of cultivable lands of such persons have gone under water; and

(d) whether they have been compensated, and if so, in what way?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) About

300 families have so far been displaced.

(b) Houses have been built for those who wanted them. Others have been given cash compensation.

(c) The total cultivable area which will be finally submerged is 7902 acres. No separate survey is reported to have been made by the D.V.C. to determine the number of houses and area of lands which have so far been submerged.

(d) Yes, Sir. Land has been reclaimed for those who wanted land in exchange. Others desiring cash compensation are being paid in cash.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any new canal system has been constructed for the use of this water, or whether the old canals themselves will be used?

Shri Hathi: From the Tilaiya Dam the water will go through the Anderson weir to the Damodar canal that already exists. No new canals are built for this dam.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the water supply will be perennial or seasonal?

Shri Hathi: It will not be perennial.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know which crops will receive the water—the *kharif* crop or the *rabi* crop or the autumn crop?

Shri Hathi: The idea of having this storage dam is that specially during the month of October when there is not sufficient water, and the existing canals do not get sufficient water, this storage dam will be utilised for giving additional water to the existing canals. In dry months also, it will help the *kharif* crop. Otherwise, it will give irrigational facilities for the *rabi* crop.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether this dam has been completed according to the schedule?

Shri Hathi: It has been completed, Sir—a few months later, of course, than the schedule.

Shri B. K. Das: What has been the total cost for the construction of this dam?

Shri Hathi: The total cost of the whole project—i.e. the dam as well as the power supply—is Rs. 3 crores.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what are the reasons for this dam being included as one of the points of refer-