

FOREIGN EXPERTS FOR PLYWOOD  
INDUSTRY

\*117. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of experts have been secured under the supplemental agreement with the F.A.O. for solving the special technical problems of the plywood industry; and

(b) whether these experts have arrived?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) Yes. The services of one plywood expert have been secured.

(b) The expert has arrived.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is there any other expert expected?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Yes, there are four more experts expected: One for the Forest department in Andamans to start operations on new saw mills, another expert on Wood Technology, a Logging Expert and a Timber engineering expert. Of these we know the names of three; as for the fourth, we do not yet know who is coming.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know the special technical problems of this industry for which these experts are needed?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Sir, it is a rather omnibus question. It is a fact that so far as the plywood industry is concerned, there are problems. Recently people must have seen in the papers complaints about Indian manufactured tea-chests. Maybe there has been an exaggeration. But in the plywood that we use for our tea-chests there seems to be room for improvement. Therefore, we have asked for an expert in regard to plywood manufacture.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is it the quality of the teakwood that has to be improved or the method of manufacturing? That is what I mean.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Unfortunately, I am in the position of a layman in this matter. All that I know is that the quality generally is unsatisfactory. Whether the quality is unsatisfactory because of workmanship or because of the material—plywood used—or both, is a matter for investigation. It is only in these matters that an expert helps.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether the proposal to establish a

factory in the Andamans has materialised or is it awaiting the arrival of the expert?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am afraid it does not arise exactly out of this question; I would like to have notice.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know, Sir, the name of the country from which this plywood expert has come or is coming?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I believe he is a German.

**Shri Kelappan:** Are there no plywood factories in India?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Plenty of them.

**Shri Kelappan:** Have they got any foreign experts?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Obviously they have not; otherwise we do not need to have to import an expert.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know, Sir, for how long these experts are asked to be in India and whether they have to submit their reports to the FAO or to India directly?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The matter of time, I think, is still a matter of negotiation. But I understand primarily they have to be here for three months; perhaps we might keep them longer, if necessary.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Has any effort been made to tackle the technical problems here, by Indian experts, at the instance of the India Government?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** That effort is being continuously made.

WOOD SCREWS

\*118. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any schemes for setting up factories for the production of wood screws during 1952-53;

(b) if so, whether any factories are being set up anywhere; and

(c) what is the total production of wood screws in India at present?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 23.]

(c) 748, 619 gross during the period January—August, 1952.