

**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.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How many factories have just at present reached production stage and what is their output?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is given in the statement, Sir. Five firms have already set up factories and regular production will start shortly. One firm has started construction of the factory and has purchased machinery, and two are in the stage of reaching production soon.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What will be the productive capacity of all these factories that are proposed to be set up just in the near future?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: What we aim at is about 6,319,000 gross ultimately, equivalent to 3159 tons.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is there any factory proposed to be set up in Northern India as well?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The names and sites of the factories are given. I think there is one in Agra, if that constitutes Northern India, and some in Calcutta among the existing factories.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Is there any proposal for starting factories in Bihar?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Among these eight factories none of them is being started in Bihar.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are any foreign investments also envisaged in these factories or is the whole capital Indian?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I am afraid my mind has not projected itself into that sphere. If we read the names of the 8 factories, one of them Guist Keen Williams Limited, is undoubtedly foreign owned. I do not know whether the other companies are foreign or Indian because the names do not indicate anything very clearly.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are they entirely leaving it to private enterprise or are Government taking any interest?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, at present perhaps I do not think the Government are in a position to invest any money.

BALANCE OF TRADE

*119. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the position of India's balance of trade since 1st July of the current financial year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 24.]

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the main causes of the adverse balance of trade position?

Shri Karmarkar: There has been a substantial reduction in the balance of trade position. We have a very creditable reduction in our deficits. If the hon. Member still wants to know why it is still there, I say this could not be avoided.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, the trade position for the first quarter of this year?

Shri Karmarkar: I should have liked to give that information but I have not got it ready.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the value of foodgrains received from the U.S.A. by way of loan has also been reflected in the balance of payments?

Shri Karmarkar: That is so.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether it is due to a reduction in the import of foodgrains?

Shri Karmarkar: That is surely one of the reasons.

SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTERS

*120. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish three 100 K.W. shortwave transmitters in the country to serve as links in a nationwide hook up?

(b) If so, when are these transmitters likely to be established?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As early as possible depending upon the availability of suitable sites, and other requirements such as power supply, telephone lines etc.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it also a fact, Sir, that with a view to the extension of the net-work of A.I.R. the Government propose to establish a number of 50 and 10 kw. medium wave transmitters?

Mr. Speaker: Strictly speaking it does not come under this. I think this question has been answered previously also. The question of 50 kw.