

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is there any special reason for the decrease in exports in respect of a number of commodities mentioned in this chart or is it only a difference between these two years?

Shri Karmarkar: My hon. friend knows that there has been a little sense of depression in the world market. On a comparison between last year and this, for the whole of last year and half of this, I find that our exports have been keeping up to what they were last year in a large number of commodities. And in respect of the rest the situation requires a little more watching before we can come to final conclusions.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: We find from the chart supplied here that there has been decrease in export in respect of jute piecegoods but there is considerable increase in the export in respect of jute sacks and bags. Is it due to the fact that the supplies of Jute from Pakistan were of an inferior quality...

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): May I in this connection mention, Sir, that the question is a very omnibus question asking for information in regard to the proportion of what we supply to U.K. in relation to its total trade and now it is becoming an examination into the items which we export to U.K. I must, Sir, plead that we could not answer these questions at this stage.

Shri Raghavaiah: The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that mica and mica products are exported to U.K. May I know whether scrap mica also is included in this?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I must ask for notice.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: In spite of the good quality of tea exported from here is it a fact that Britain is now intending to import more tea from Ceylon?

Shri Karmarkar: We noticed a certain tendency towards some decrease in the U.K. import and part of it was due to Ceylonese tea—but only part of it.

EVACUEE PROPERTY DISPUTE

*131. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Pakistan's Rehabilitation Minister recently made a statement vehemently protesting against intentions on the part of Government of India to terminate the proprietary rights on the pro-

perty of the Muslim Evacuees left in India?

(b) Are any such proposals as alleged above under the consideration of Government?

(c) Are any negotiations proceeding between the Governments of India and Pakistan for settling the evacuee property dispute finally?

(d) Is there any truth in the reports which appeared in certain sections of the press that the Indian Government have proposed that the dispute regarding evacuee property should be referred to the International Court?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (d). Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement laid by me on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 12 by Shri A. M. Thomas on the 5th November 1952.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Has Government made any such proposals to the Pakistan Government recently?

Shri A. P. Jain: I will refer the hon. Member to the statement. I have mentioned all those things in the statement.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: What is the Government doing to speedily settle this question with the Pakistan Government?

Shri A. P. Jain: We wrote to Pakistan only a few weeks ago and we are expecting a reply. Perhaps nothing more requires to be done at the moment.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the hon. Minister kindly give the House information as to what the Government wrote to Pakistan in this respect recently?

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, I have given full details. The statement covers two and a quarter pages.

Shri Gidwani: How long do Government propose to wait for the reply?

Shri A. P. Jain: For a reasonable time.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: In view of the new passport system between India and East Pakistan may I know whether negotiations will be carried on also with respect to the evacuee property in East Bengal?

Shri A. P. Jain: There is no such idea.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to extend the scope of the discussions to East Bengal also?

Shri A. P. Jain: No.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know the reason?

Shri A. P. Jain: Because the properties in West and East Pakistan have got quite different characteristics, and the proposal which we have made to Pakistan relates only to the properties in Western Pakistan to which the Evacuee Property law of 1950 applies.

GOVERNMENT HOUSING FACTORY

*133. **Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agreement has been reached between the Government of India and Baisakha Singh Ltd., in regard to the Government Housing Factory?

(b) If so, what are the terms of the Agreement?

(c) What is the programme of production in the Housing Factory and what are the articles which are expected to be produced in it?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the Press Note issued on the 15th September 1952 a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 29]. Since the Agreement though finalised has not yet formally been signed, I am not in a position to release its terms.

Prof. Agarwal: May I know whether this Baisakha Singh Limited is a private limited company or a public limited company?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is a private limited company.

Prof. Agarwal: What is the subscribed capital of this company?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would like to have notice.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if Government will take into consideration or has taken into consideration during these negotiations the value of the land that will be leased to this company for the factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Certainly, Government has taken that into consideration.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Are Government in a position to lay on the Table those two reports of the Committees that investigated into the original pre-fabricated housing factory before it was taken over by Baisakha Singh Ltd.?

Mr. Speaker: He refers to the Mulgaonkar Committee report, I think.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Government have to consider before they can make any statement positively about it.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it a fact that one of the senior retired officials of the Government of India is connected with Baisakha Singh Limited?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have no information.

INDIANS IMPRISONED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

*134. **Shri Jajware:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many Indians are imprisoned and detained in foreign States for political reasons and what steps Government have taken to get them released?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when available.

REORGANISATION OF C.P.W.D.

*135. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state which of the recommendations and suggestions of the Kasturbhai Committee with regard to the re-organisation and other aspects of the Central Public Works Department have been accepted and given effect to by Government?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of Government.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when this Committee was appointed and when they submitted their report?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This Committee was appointed in November 1951 and the report was submitted in August 1952.

Shri S. N. Das: How long will Government take to come to decisions on this?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not more than a month.