

(c) Imports of cotton piecegoods from the United Kingdom for January-June 1955 show a decrease over the corresponding period last year.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether this decline in the export of cotton piecegoods is due to the propaganda carried on in England for stopping the import of Indian piecegoods to England ?

Shri Karmarkar : We do not expect any such trend in the United Kingdom because, as my friend perhaps knows, about 60 per cent of the piecegoods exported from India to England is used for processing and being sent abroad. We are quite sure that they will not do something to militate against their own interests.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know to what extent there has been a reduction in import duty on British cloth.

Shri Karmarkar : I think in respect of the various varieties of cotton cloth we reduced about 40 per cent *ad valorem* duty on imports from the United Kingdom.

Shri Kaaliwal : May I know whether this decline in import has been in the completely manufactured cloth or in the unprocessed cloth ?

Shri Karmarkar : It is on the completely manufactured cloth.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that even after the increase in the export duty there is constant agitation in Manchester about the stopping of Indian piecegoods ?

Shri Karmarkar : I read something about it yesterday morning in the newspapers, but I do not think that is a very big agitation.

भारतीय समाचार पत्र की बिक्री

*१३१२. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि एक अमरीकी फर्म एक भारतीय समाचार पत्र का कार्यालय और मशीन आदि खरीदने का विचार कर रही है ?

सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० केसकर) : सरकार को इस बारे में कोई सूचना नहीं है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतला सकेंगे कि अखबारों में टाइम्स

आफ इंडिया के सेल होने की जो खबर शायी हुई है, वह वाकई सही है या नहीं ?

डा० केसकर : मैंने भी अखबार में इस तरह की अफवाह पढ़ी है । इसके अलावा मुझे और कोई बात मालूम नहीं है ।

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : May I know whether there is any rule that if any foreigner wants to invest any amount in some newspaper in India now owned by Indians, he will have to take the permission of the Government before doing so ?

Dr. Keekar : As far as pure newspapers are concerned, there is no Government regulation, but my colleague on the right from the Commerce and Industry Ministry might be able to say as to whether there is any bar regarding money being invested in an Indian company by foreigners.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha : May I know whether *The New York Times* have applied for permission to edit Indian editions of their paper ?

Dr. Keekar : Yes, they have.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

*1315. **Shri Biren Dutt** : Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) whether, it is a fact that 64 refugee families were settled on a plot of land requisitioned by the Government of Tripura at Deochhara in Dharma Nagar Division;

(b) whether it is a fact that a majority of these displaced persons have been forcibly evicted from their plots by a landlord; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to resettle these families on the same plot which was requisitioned by Government ?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) 45 families were settled at Deochhara on a plot of land requisitioned by the Government.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Biren Dutt : If the details regarding the eviction of the persons from this land are given to the Minister, may I know whether he will enquire into

the matter and if there has been an eviction, may I know whether the Government will help them once again with land which had been given to them earlier?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have made enquiries into the matter and I find that 45 families were settled on this piece of land. Not a single family has been evicted from there. There is a neighbour who owns the adjoining piece of land and he has launched a case against the Government claiming that land. That matter is still under the investigation of the State Government, but according to my information, not a single person has been evicted from this particular piece of land.

Investigation into Complaints

*1317. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some complaints of corruption and nepotism have been received against the former incumbent of the office of the Director of Inspection, Supply and Disposal Directorate at Calcutta;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government initiated investigations into the said complaints sometime in 1953; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the said officer?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Departmental Proceedings against the officer are in progress.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it is a fact that the Special Police investigated this matter and recommended prosecution of the officer?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is a fact that the S. P. E. did investigate the case. They made a certain report to the Government. The report was carefully considered and after considering it, it was decided that the departmental proceedings should be started against the officer.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it is a fact that in spite of the findings of the Special Police—whatever that might be—and also the departmental action which the Minister has referred to, this particular officer continues to hold in Delhi the same responsibility and rank which he had in Calcutta, and if so, what are the reasons for such indulgence?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no question of indulgence. The matter is being gone into and he was transferred

from Calcutta and was brought to Delhi. It was not considered, in the interests of work, that he should be suspended because the work that he is doing here is different from the one he was doing there.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if Government considers it desirable to keep as Director of Inspection, Delhi—which must be a fairly responsible office—a person against whom departmental action has already been recommended and is going to be taken?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The nature of the allegations against him are of such a character that regard being had to all the circumstances, it was not considered necessary to suspend him pending the enquiry.

Public Co-operation

*1318. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to execute through public co-operation the various river valley projects with which the Centre is concerned; and

(b) if so, the names of such projects where work is being done or is proposed to be done through, public co-operation?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). Public cooperation was enlisted during the last working season in the construction of embankments of the Kosi Project; contracts were let out to labour cooperatives for small reaches on the distributaries and canals of Chambal Project in Madhya Bharat. This arrangement will be continued in the next and future working seasons. The Government of Rajasthan have also reported that with regard to work on the Chambal Project within Rajasthan public cooperation is expected to be introduced in the next cold weather.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know what is the object behind the idea of executing river valley projects with public co-operation? Is it only to achieve some financial gain or to achieve some greater result, and if it, is financial gain, what is the gain?

Shri Hathi: Financial gain is not the only object. We also want to utilise the surplus man-power and we want to enthruse them and make them take interest in the construction of embankments etc. Whatever surplus time is available with them can be utilised and that would enable us to complete the project in a shorter period.