

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know what assistance has been given or what arrangements have been made for the production of cement in Saurashtra where there is so much of limestone?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** There is no question of assistance. Cement factories are coming up in Saurashtra. The problem again will be a problem of transport from Saurashtra to the consuming areas.

**Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan:** In view of the fact that there is a shortage of cement—or at least we cannot get cement where we need—are the Government contemplating stopping export of cement and also taking away the control on cement?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** No. As a matter of fact so far as exports are concerned they are just a trickle and we want to cultivate these markets. As my hon. colleague mentioned just now we expect to reach 5 million tons very soon and about 6 million tons by March next year. We cannot afford to lose our export market. So far as control is concerned so long as there is shortage there has to be control.

#### Plantation Enquiry Commission

\*753. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 266 on the 25th February 1955 and state:

(a) whether the Plantation Enquiry Commission has since submitted their report to Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by Government thereon?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) No, Sir. Not yet.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know whether any time-limit was fixed by the Government for submission of their report by the Commission?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It was October. But the Commission have written to us that they require still more time to complete their inquiry and submit their report. They have accordingly requested for a little extension till December. That question is under consideration.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Which are the States which the Commission have already visited?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have not got the detailed list. They visited all the States where there are plantations—tea, coffee and the like.

#### Silk

\*754. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Government have succeeded in reducing the cost of production of Indian silk and improving its quality;

(b) the amount placed at the disposal of the Central Silk Board since 1947, year by year, for the purpose; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Kashmir silk sarees are in great demand in Ceylon?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) According to the Tariff Commission Report (1953), the cost of production of raw silk has been reduced by Rs. 2/7/10 per pound between 1949 and 1953. Its quality has also comparatively improved as a result of improvement in the quality of cocoons.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 30].

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know how many research stations have been started since 1944?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** So far as my knowledge goes, two research centres, at Chennapatnam in Mysore and Malda in West Bengal, are working.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know how many new schemes have been taken up in 1954-55?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** So far no new schemes have been taken up; but since additional grants have been made for the current year, the Mysore and Madras Governments, in particular, have been requested to submit certain technical schemes.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is it not a fact that in 1953-54, Rs. 20 lakhs were set apart for these special schemes?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri N. Rachiah:** May I know whether the silk industry in Mysore has been facing a crisis due to the heavy fluctuation of rates in the market of the cocoons and, if so, what steps do Government propose to take?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** This is a vexed question. But, so far as my information goes, the Government of India have given additional grants to the Mysore Government to have experiments at Chennapatnam