

Shri Karmarkar: There is no necessity of any assurance. The more our exports, the merrier. Why should we put any restrictions in the way of our exports?

Shri N. M. Lingam : May I know if Japan is competing with us in these traditional markets of ours? If so, what steps are being taken to see that our trade is not affected thereby?

Shri Karmarkar : Japanese piece-goods are competing with our piece-goods. As to the precise impact upon these markets, I should like to find out.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Since the hon. Minister's Ministry has raised a subtle cry of shortage of cloth in the coming years in the country in view of the Ambar Charkha programme, could I know if there will be any stipulation as to the limit of export of such cloth without any licence?

Shri Karmarkar: Should I answer this question? I do not know whether it arises out of this question by any implication.

Mr. Speaker : What the hon. Member evidently wants to know is whether, in view of some statements that have been made about shortage of cloth, it is desirable to permit exports?

Shri Karmarkar : To Tibet, Bhutan etc.?

Mr. Speaker : Either the hon. Minister must know or the questioner must know.

Shri Karmarkar : I very respectfully submit that the question is absolutely irrelevant. I did not want to say it. I wanted guidance from the Chair.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : In view of the fact that it has been stated that there will be acute shortage of cloth in the coming years, I want to know whether any limit has been fixed for the export of cloth to these countries without any licence.

Shri Karmarkar : We shall see about the coming year in the coming year. There is no immediate apprehension of shortage. Therefore, we would like our cloth to be exported as much as possible.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy : May I know whether, in view of the policy of export of cotton textiles without licence, the decline in cloth exports which occurred last year in comparison with the year before, would be made up?

Shri Karmarkar : The position with regard to these three countries is that there were some restrictions. We had placed them on a par with other countries with regard to export of cloth. But if there were no restrictions, there would be an increase in exports. If there could be an increase in exports without affecting our internal supplies, we would welcome it. The present position is that nothing so critical has happened as a result of cloth exports to these three countries.

AIRFIELD AT ALONG

*1852. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd :** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether all-weather airfield for N.E.F.A. has been opened at Along, the headquarters of the Siang frontier division.

(b) if so, the estimated annual cost of this airfield; and

(c) the uses of the airfield?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (c). Yes. This all-weather airfield has just been completed. The estimated costs of annual maintenance is being verified. The new airfield will provide easy communications and facilities for supplies of essential commodities to tribals and N.E.F.A. staff.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: May I know if the Government have any proposal to construct two more airfields in that area? If so, what are the names of those places where these are likely to be opened?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan : I cannot answer that question now.

Shrimati Khongmen : May I know whether this transport is the only means of transport there?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan : Yes, as far as I am aware.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : In view of the answer 'yes', could I know what further facilities by way of construction of aerodromes are being arranged to facilitate communication in this area?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan : Let this develop first. Then we shall see.

EXPORT DUTY ON MANGANESE ORES

*1853. **Shri Deogam :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 957 on the 16th September, 1955, and state the reasons why the export duty has not been reimposed when the prices of all grades of manganese ores have gone up by 50 per cent. on an average since the abolition of duty?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : It would not be in the public interest to discuss this matter on the floor of the House.

SHIP BUILDING INDUSTRY

*1854. **Shri V. P. Nayar :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal was sent by Travancore-Cochin Government to include a Ship Building Industry to be started at Cochin Port or nearabout; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Travancore-Cochin Government have been assured that while selecting a site for the second shipyard, the claim of that region will receive due consideration.

Shri V. P. Nayar : We are not satisfied with the assurance that our claim will be considered. I wanted to know whether Government are aware that in the matter of setting up a second shipyard, the Cochin harbour has certain advantages which no other port has.

Shri Satish Chandra : All these factors will be considered by the technical consultants, as and when they are appointed, to recommend a site for the location of the second shipyard.

Shri V. P. Nayar : Are Government aware that Cochin is the only major port which is connected by railway and inland water transport, and it is the only region where timber and other materials are available at the cheapest rates in India?

Shri Satish Chandra : These factors will also be considered by the consultants.

Mr. Speaker : When some consultants are going to be appointed to go into this matter, what is the good of giving one argument after the other? The hon. Minister is not going to decide.

Shri A. M. Thomas : May I enquire whether the Ministry of Production has gone beyond an allotment of Rs. 50,000 for the training of some personnel? May I know whether any other concrete step has been taken? May I also know what is the difficulty about skilled personnel, as they are available in Cochin?

Shri Satish Chandra : A sum of Rs. 75 lakhs has been provided in the Second Five Year Plan for the training of technical personnel to man the second shipyard. This training will be given at Visakhapatnam shipyard which is at present the only major shipyard in the country.

Shri V. P. Nayar : The hon. Minister said that Government has been assured that all consideration will be given to these aspects before the second shipyard is set up. Apart from such considerations as the site of the shipyard, will Government also take into consideration the very peculiar problem of unemployment in Travancore-Cochin State?