

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** It is too large a question to be answered at this stage.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Thimmaiah:** I too want to put a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow him to put it, as an exception.

**Shri Thimmaiah:** Is there any spun silk factory which was closed in the Mysore State and has Government any proposals to re-open it?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** In Mysore State the factory might have stopped working in the past for certain periods. I may inform the hon. Member that, so far as I know, Government is considering the question of taking over the management of the spun silk factory.

#### TEA EXPORTS

**\*1213. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea exported by Northern India and Southern India during 1955-56; and

(b) whether there is a satisfactory demand for Indian tea abroad?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) During April-January 1955-56, the quantity of tea exported by Northern Indian and Southern India were 254,256,820 lbs. and 60,423,973 lbs. respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

**Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** May I know if the Government will consider the desirability of increasing the area of tea cultivation in the districts of Kangra of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir State?

**Shri Karmarkar:** For Kangra and Jammu and Kashmir, I should like to have notice.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** Is it a fact that there is poor off take of tea in Australia and New Zealand due to shipping difficulties? I understand that the Ceylon tea reaches Australia very

quickly whereas our tea takes as much as three months. May I know what steps Government has taken to relieve this position?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am not aware of any shipping difficulties to any destinations, so far as my knowledge goes.

**Shrimati Khongmen:** May I know whether the quantity of tea just mentioned by the hon. Minister includes also the export from the easternmost parts of India, that is, Assam State?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I said both North India and South India, and naturally Assam is included in North India.

**Shri Velayudhan :** May I know what is the position of the propaganda abroad in regard to the Indian Tea Expansion Board and whether anything could be done profitably to sell our tea in other countries as there is acute competition from Ceylon, Malaya and other countries?

**Shri Karmarkar:** With regard to propaganda in foreign countries, the best way is to collaborate with other tea-growing countries. Ceylon and we have contributed to a scheme whereby we do not try to outbid each other in the matter of tea, and it is bound to increase the consumption of tea in the world.

**Shri Velayudhan:** What is the propaganda? How is it running?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is running on smoothly.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether there was a fall in the prices of Indian tea during the latter part of 1955-56?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** There was a fall in the price of tea.

**Shri Punnoose:** The causes?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The causes are many—partly over-production, partly credit squeeze in the United Kingdom and perhaps also due to the fact that we insisted on a

larger quantum being auctioned in India instead of it being sent on consignee account in the U.K. as was the practice hitherto.

**Shri Hem Raj:** May I know whether it is a fact that India is losing its market for green tea in Afghanistan due to the fact that under the Food Adulteration Act it is not being coloured? What steps is the Government going to take to have this rigour removed?

**Shri Karmarkar:** With regard to the fall in export to Afghanistan, I should like to have notice. With regard to the other question, certain rules were framed to prevent adulteration of tea and we understand that there is a little hardship in respect of green tea. As I stated some days back in this House, we advised the Punjab Government to stop any legal action in respect of that matter. We hope we shall find a solution.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether India is a member of the International Tea Expansion Board, whether it could do anything specially for making propaganda for Indian tea or whether it stands as a bar for Indian tea being consumed in other countries? What is the organisation in the U.S.A., U.K. and other countries?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I shall repeat the answer already given. We have given good thought to this subject and we have thought that the best way to promote the cause of Indian tea in foreign markets would be to work in collaboration with other tea-growing areas or countries. Further, it is not our practice nor is it advisable or feasible to go on saying only about Indian tea and nothing else. All the tea-growing countries have come together in an organisation, for instance, in the U.S.A., and we have thought that that is the best way of promoting the cause of Indian tea.

#### VEGETABLE OIL AND OILSEEDS

\*1214. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of vegetable oils and oilseeds have been steadily rising for the last few months; and

(b) if so, the causes thereof?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rise in prices is attributed to smaller groundnut crop during 1955-56 as compared to the previous year, due to unfavourable weather conditions at the time of sowing in Sourashtra and Gujarat and the damages caused to groundnut and other crops by the cyclone in South India in December last.

I should also like to add that the rise in prices, is likely to be due to the excise duty that is imposed.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know how it is that the Village Industries Board has been able to keep the prices of oil at the same level at which it was selling a few months ago?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think they work on some principle which the normal merchant is not bound by. The normal merchant depends upon so many other factors. He likes to have better prices and things like that. So far as I know, the Village Industries Board has its own cost-accounting of production and is reasonable in the charges of the oil that it sells.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि वेजीटेबुल आयल की कीमत इसलिए भी बढ़ रही है कि वह शुद्ध घी के साथ खूब मिलाया जाता है और उस रूप में बहुत कम बिकता है और क्या इस हालत में उसका जमाया जाना बंद करने का या उसको रंग देने का कोई प्रयत्न हो रहा है ?

**श्री करमरकर :** इस विषय में बार बार हाउस में प्रस्ताव आ चुका है और उस पर वाद-विवाद भी हो चुका है और उसमें माननीय सदस्य ने भी हिस्सा लिया है और अगर वह कलरिंग के बारे में फुड एंड एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री से पूछें तो शायद उन्हें कुछ पता लग सके कि वह मिनिस्ट्री वेजीटेबुल आयल में मिलाने के लिए कोई उपयुक्त रंग तलाश कर सकी है कि नहीं ।