

Shri Kaaliwal: This question relates to mutual assistance and salvage in times of distress. May I know whether the Government have any information as to whether treaties of such kinds have been entered into by other countries?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I cannot say so now.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that some time before there were some negotiations between the Government of Ceylon and the Government of India regarding the fixation of limits for fishing in extra territorial waters? May I also know whether the Government are aware that the Ceylonese Fishing Craft are using what is called the 'Wadge Bank' for fishing?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am afraid, we have not got the information to answer that question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I enquire from the Government whether the Government have any information regarding the continuous exploitation of an area in the 'Wadge Bank' which will come within 100 miles of India's coast?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: What is that area—Wadge Bank?

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary stated that with regard to areas within 100 miles there were some agreements.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: It is a proposal.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know at what stage it is today?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Obviously, when we say 100 miles, sometimes the 100 miles may overlap over somebody-else's 100 miles. Therefore, some agreement has to be arrived at. It may even reach the other territory. Then obviously it won't apply. So, all these adjustments have to be made.

KANNAN DEVAN HILLS PRODUCE COMPANY LIMITED, TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*2290. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company Limited, has the biggest Estate in the Travancore-Cochin State;

(b) if so, the area of land in the possession of that company;

(c) the total investment of the Company so far in Travancore-Cochin State; and

(d) the total profits exported by the Company till the end of the financial year 1955-56?

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

(b) The area in possession of the Company is reported to be about 215 square miles. It is understood that an area of 26,449 acres is under tea and 3,350 acres under other plantation crops in Travancore-Cochin State.

(c) Information is not readily available.

(d) Information is not available.

Sir, I should like to add under (c) and (d), that what is meant there is that no official information is available. But according to publications by private parties, namely, *Investors' Encyclopaedia—1954*, Compiled by Messrs. Kothari and Sons, Madras, and the *Tea Producing Companies—1954* published by Messrs. De Zeoto and Gorton, London, the authorised and subscribed capital of the company appear to be: authorised capital: £1,500,000 and issued and subscribed capital: £1,300,000. The net profit after deducting tax during 1954 appears to be £ 6,44,419.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, it is very difficult to follow such a long answer. Had this statistical information been available in the form of a statement, it could have been taken advantage of for putting supplementaries.

Now, I want to know whether the Government are aware that year by year this company is exporting profits which will form a substantial percentage of the total investment so far.

Shri Karmarkar: Will he kindly repeat?

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know whether the Government are aware that this company, which is a company incorporated in England, is exporting profits which covers a substantial percentage of the total investment every year.

Shri Karmarkar: I have given the figures according to the private publications I mentioned. My hon. friend can calculate.

Mr. Speaker: He said, an investment of £ lakhs and a profit of £ 6 lakhs.

Shri Karmarkar: According to private authorities.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It makes about 40 to 45 per cent. of the total investment as profits for the year.

Mr. Speaker: We are not on inferences here.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government have any information regarding the price paid for these 215 square miles of land? May I also enquire whether the Government are aware that the company has paid only a nominal sum several decades ago to acquire this vast territory which is about one-thirty sixth of the whole State?

Shri Karmarkar: We have no information on that point.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether it is a fact that a substantial portion of the sales tax revenue as well as agricultural income tax revenue of Travancore-Cochin comes from this company? May I also enquire whether there has been any negotiation recently between this company and some private parties in India to sell these estates?

Shri Karmarkar: Regarding the first part of the question, as my friend is good at figures, I am prepared to take his information. Regarding the second part I have no information; perhaps the Madras Government must have the information—now it is Travancore-Cochin Government.

Shri Punnoose: The hon. Minister stated that an area of 215 square miles is in the possession of the company. May I know whether it was a straight sale or was it taken on lease by the company?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said, we have no information on this point. The Travancore-Cochin Government must have the information.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that this company has taken this area on lease for a period of 99 years—that is cultivated area—and the fact is that.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member put a question to elicit an answer. The hon. Minister replied that the information is in the possession of the Government of Travancore-Cochin. Now the hon. Member is giving the answer. He also said that there is a lease for 99 years and all that. Then, why did he put the question?

Shri Punnoose: I wanted to know whether the Minister is in possession of facts.

Mr. Speaker: He may or may not be in possession of facts. I am not going to allow such questions. This is not an examination hall where Ministers are being cross-examined. The hon. Members can only elicit answers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government have now under contemplation any proposal for nationalising this particular estate which belongs to a company incorporated in England and which has about 1/36th of the entire area of Travancore-Cochin State?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can only put a question. But he is assuming that this company has got 1/36th of the total area and he is assuming various other things also.

Shri Punnoose: I rise to a point of order. Here is a question about Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company and as Members of this House representing that State where this company is working, it is for us to know whether the Government are in possession of facts. What is wrong about it, I do not understand.

Mr. Speaker: My only point is that figures such as 1/36th or 1/40th, etc., need not be given by the hon. Members. If the hon. Minister does not answer it, do the hon. Members mean that those figures are correct? The question-hour ought to be utilised only for the purpose of eliciting answers which the hon. Members may not know. Again, in asking for answers, they should not assume things and place them before the House. It is not correct. If the Minister is not able to say the exact figure, does it mean that what the hon. Members have said is correct?

Shri Punnoose: We may have some information with us, but it does not become an authorised one unless it is officially approved by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: It is not so.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In the case of answers like this, I suggest that the Government should be asked to give us at least advance information by way of a statement when alone it would become possible for us to put supplementary questions. I cannot remember all the figures that the Minister has read out.

Shri Karmarkar: It is not my fault if the hon. Member could not remember the figures. I think I was loud enough in giving the answer. In regard to the particular question about the extent of land in the whole State when compared to the estate held by this company, the hon. Members know that full information is easily available. We

try to supply the information to the hon. Members with as great a promptitude as possible.

Mr. Speaker: The point is, there is now no State legislature functioning there. Questions will have to be put to this House regarding matters in that State, consequently, I can only suggest that whenever any hon. Minister finds that the answer cannot be completed in a few sentences and that the answer is full with figures, he would try, as far as possible, to place the information in the Notice Office so that the hon. Members who want to put supplementary questions may have an opportunity to look into it and be prepared to put supplementary questions. I leave the decision to the hon. Minister himself. If he finds that the answer is full of figures and if it extends to some pages, the information may be placed in the Notice Office so that the Members may have sufficient opportunity to look into it and put supplementary questions.

Shri Karmarkar: I may submit this with all respect to the House. If the hon. Members give us a specific notice of the information that they want, we shall certainly try to supply it. As you know, in answer to part (b) of the question, I have given the answer as follows:

“The area in possession of the company is reported to be about 215 square miles. It is understood that an area of 26,449 acres is under tea and 3,350 acres under other plantation crops in Travancore-Cochin State”.

So, with regard to the area and all that, we are ready with the reply. If they want us to conduct research in the Ministry, we shall be able to do so but on notice.

Mr. Speaker: Even with regard to the information that the Minister has given, when the figures are there, the hon. Member will not find it easy to remember the figures off-hand as soon as the answer is given. In such cases as the present one, the answer that is given in the House may be placed in the Notice Office 15 minutes earlier,

so that the hon. Members may look into it. There is no complaint about the manner in which the hon. Minister has answered the question. Next question.

AMBAR CHARKHA

***2291. Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee to go into the technical and economic aspects of Ambar Charkha have submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are its principal recommendations and whether they are accepted by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the Government of India, as per the recommendations of the Khadi and Village Industries Board, has ordered for the manufacture of Ambar Charkha and what is the total number so ordered?

Shri Satish Chandra: The hon. Member is perhaps aware that 6,000 Ambar Charkhas were sanctioned as part of a pilot project sponsored by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board. After that, another 10,000 Ambar Charkhas have been sanctioned so that further experiments could go on in the larger field. The Khadi and Village Industries Board has not submitted so far a report on the pilot project.

Shri Radha Raman: In view of the recent report which appeared in the press, may I know whether the Government has actually deputed some one to look into the technical side and the economic side of the Ambar Charkha and whether it is being examined with a view to find out whether it can provide employment to the educated unemployed in the country?

Shri Satish Chandra: A committee has been set up to enquire into the technical and economic aspects. This is exactly what the hon. Member has asked in his question and I have answered it.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in the last session, the hon. Minister of Planning stated that the experiments on the technical side of the Ambar Charkha would be completed by May, 1956, and if so, may I know what led to this delay so far?

Shri Satish Chandra: May is still not over. We hope to get the report of the committee by the end of May, provided the reports of the Board itself and of the other laboratories where the charkha and its yarn are being tested are available.

Shri Dabhi: May I know when the report is likely to be completed? The hon. Minister said, "by the end of May" ?

Shri Satish Chandra: It all depends upon the information to be given to us by the Board. They have to submit a report on the pilot projects. Similarly the two laboratories at Ahmedabad and Matunga near Bombay have also to give the report. Those laboratories are working on it and testing it. Then the economic aspect has to be examined for which a questionnaire has been issued. The replies to this questionnaire must come in before any report can be submitted by the committee.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know how many Ambar Charkhas are now under the Khadi and Village Industries Board and what progress has been made?

Shri Satish Chandra: 6,000 Ambar Charkhas are working and another 10,000 have been sanctioned.

Shri G. P. Sinha: I want to know how it is progressing. Is it to the satisfaction of the Government?

Shri Satish Chandra: This is what the committee is expected to go into.

Shri R. P. Garg: What is the opinion of the Government in regard to the recent suggestions by Acharya Vinobha Bhave that every villager should have an Ambar Charkha, and may I know by what time every villager will have an Ambar Charkha?