

**Mr. Speaker:** Only one question at a time.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I appreciate the hon. Member's question, because this is a source of anxiety to us also. From October to April, in the year 1955-56, the imports have been only worth Rs. 16 lakhs during the seven months, October to September, whereas, for the whole year 1954-55, in terms of value it was Rs. 1,12,00,000.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the Government of India represented to the Burmese Government that this licensing system should be dropped and *status quo* should be restored?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The whole situation has arisen on account of the fact that the Burmese Government have deliberately restricted the import of prawn into Burma. Naturally, because it gives employment to a number of people in Travancore-Cochin, we have gone into the matter. We are taking up the matter repeatedly with the Burmese Government; a trade mission is expected here and we are bound to take this matter up with them also.

**Shri Velayudhan:** We have given a lot of loans to the Burmese Government; has the matter been pressed from that point of view?

**Shri Karmarkar:** There is no question of any advantage because of the loans which we have given; this is apart from the loans. This is a matter of mutual trade between the two countries. As I said, it is a matter of concern to us also. We have repeatedly brought it to the notice of the Burmese Government and we shall take it up with the trade mission also.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** In view of the fact that prawn is a perishable commodity, and we do not have suitable storage equipment, may I know what encouragement Government propose to give to the industry?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Regarding the encouragement to this industry, firstly, we have taken some aid from foreign countries in this matter for more efficient fishing. For instance, we are taking assistance from the Technical Cooperation Mission in the shape of trawlers and some equipment for ice and cold storage plant. We get some aid from the Norwegian Aid Programme also in the shape of some trawlers. Thirdly, in the Second Five Year Plan, it is proposed to set up a Central Deep-Sea Fishing Station for exploring off-shore fishing grounds for shrimps and other fish.

**Shri Matthen:** The hon. Minister has stated that the export of prawn this year is less than that of last year. May I ask whether the hon. Minister knows

that this is due mainly to the new licences given by the Burmese Government to People's China for the import of prawn which Burma has been getting entirely from Travancore-Cochin for the last 50 years or more?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Our present information does not enable us to be certain as to whether or not it is a fact that they had given any licences to China. Our present information is that they gave some licences for export of prawn from China, but those licences are bound to be given to the same degree to other countries. But, we are awaiting further report.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Is it not true that on account of the peculiar financial stresses on Burma, the Burmese Government has had to tighten its belt for its people?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It may be that they are in difficulty, but we also have our difficulty and we are bound to press our difficulties a little more than theirs.

**Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Arising out of the reply to part (c) of the question, may I know whether Government has made any attempt to explore the prawn market in U.S.A.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes, Sir; our figures for the last three years show that there is a slight increase in the export of prawn to U.S.A. For instance, in terms of rupees, during 1953, our export was Rs. 52,508; during 1954, Rs. 1,56,801 and during 1955, Rs. 2,68,349. These are the figures and we shall be happy to do all that we possibly can to promote such export; if any facilities are required, we shall consider them.

#### Textile Industry

\*1225. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of talks being held between the representatives of the textile Industry of India and Britain?

**The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah):** Yes, Sir.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the basis of the talks which are going to be held between the representatives?

**Shri M. M. Shah:** The talks will be generally regarding the import and export of cloth between the two countries?

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether the question of further reducing the tariff duty on imported cloth from Britain will also be considered?

**Shri M. M. Shah:** That is a reciprocal arrangement and we should not fo

that there are no import restrictions on duty, as far as export of textiles from India to U.K. is concerned.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha :** In view of the report in the papers that our Prime Minister had a talk with the British Prime Minister during the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, on the import and export of the textiles between two countries, could we have any idea about the broad outlines on which this textile policy will be discussed and also could we know whether a delegation is coming for that purpose in future or not?

**Shri M. M. Shah:** A delegation is coming, as I have indicated. It will not be correct at this stage to anticipate what the results of the discussion would be.

### Foreign Firms in India

\*1228. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Employment Contract regulating the employment of Indian citizens in foreign establishment remains till now the same one which existed during the British regime in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain clauses of the said contract are not in line with the contract conditions obtaining in respect of the foreign employment of other independent nationalities; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to modify the said contract in keeping with the prestige of a free State?

**The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah):** (a) to (c). Government have no information in regard to the existence of a special type of contract uniformly regulating the employment of Indians in all foreign firms in India nor has any such fact been brought to their notice so far. Government, therefore, see no grounds for taking action on the lines suggested.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** Are Government aware that the Indian employees of the Aden Petroleum Refinery Limited do not get earned leave, remuneration for over-time work, family allowance, Service Provident Benefit etc. and if so, what action has the Government taken to see that Indians are not deprived of these benefits?

**Shri M. M. Shah:** If any such case is brought to our notice, we shall certainly look into it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Soon after a question of this kind is tabled, ten days are allowed; is it not possible for the Minister to ascertain what the situation is, instead of merely saying that it has not been brought to his notice?

**Shri M. M. Shah:** The question is about a specific contract. There is no contract in existence in India uniformly regulating the employment of Indians in all foreign firms. The question is whether any case has been brought to the notice of the Government. So far no case has come to the notice of the Government.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The point here is to find out whether there was any discrimination between Indians and non-Indians in some contracts. I think that aspect should have been ascertained. As you have rightly pointed out, Sir, we should have got the information.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a matter of discrimination between Indian and non-Indian employees.

**Shri M. M. Shah:** The question relates to some specific contract which is below the dignity or prestige of the Indian nationals. As I said, no such contract has ever come to the notice of the Government. There does not remain anything to be examined in that respect.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** In view of the fact that we passed an Act a year or so back for the collection of statistics about Indian and non-Indian employees in foreign and other establishments, has the Government any material in their possession to show that Indians and non-Indians of the same ranks are discriminated against so far as emoluments and other conditions of service are concerned?

**Shri M. M. Shah:** That is not a fact. As a matter of fact, I may bring to the notice of the House a press note issued on 11th November 1955 in which all these facts have been clearly stated. The proportion of the Indians in foreign establishments has been steadily rising. The terms of their employment are all being brought on par with the foreign nationals and from 45 per cent. of the Indian nationals in 1947, in 1955 the percentage of Indians in foreign establishments has risen to 75 per cent.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The hon. Minister has just now stated that the terms of service of Indians are being brought on par with the foreigners. But that means a continuing process. What is the exact position today? Is there improvement in all cases or are there exceptions?

**Shri M. M. Shah:** It is very difficult to say that. It is not possible for every contract employee to come to Government for rectification. The general policy has been laid down and Mr. Rishang Keishing was only referring to the disability for leave. If any employee on foreign employment contract feels aggrieved about any condition, he can approach the Government and the Government will certainly look into it.