

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know by what percentage our total production falls short of our requirements at present?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That has been given in the main answer. 80 per cent and 60 per cent are the figures that have been given in reply to part (a). They are being met by the two refineries at Trombay.

Shri G. P. Sinha: In view of the fact that there is an increase in the supply from indigenous sources, may I know why the prices are going up?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Because of higher cost of production and higher taxation also.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I would like to know by what percentage the gap will be reduced when our refineries go into operation.

Sardar Swaran Singh: By another 15 to 20 per cent.

Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the Government has made any assessment of their ordinary day-to-day requirements and the requirements of the Plan? May I know the difference between the two?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Plan does take into consideration our day-to-day requirements. It is no plan if it does not take into consideration our day-to-day requirements.

Monazite Sands

*829. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 865 on 23rd August 1956 and state:

(a) whether work on commercial basis has been started to exploit the uranium bearing monazite sands found in the district of Ranchi on the banks of river Ara and Ruru; and

(b) what are Government's expectations regarding areas and extent of uranium to be found there?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes. On the advice of the Department of Atomic Energy, active prospecting work for radioactive monazite sands is being carried out by the lessees, *vis.*, Messrs. National Cement, Mines and Industries Ltd., Ranchi, in the area.

(b) The total quantity is insignificant compared with other deposits in India.

Export and Import Trade

*834 { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Shri Asthana:
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that mostly those firms and persons take advantage of the export and import trade in the country who have got their offices in the towns and situated on the Ports and that people in Bihar and other States are at a disadvantage as there is no office of the Export and Import Department of the Government of India to furnish them with necessary information in time;

(b) if so, what measures Government contemplate to redress the grievances of the people;

(c) whether it is a fact that the bulk of Export and Import trade in the country is concentrated in the hands of the established Exporters and Importers;

(d) whether Government propose to extend the scope of Import and Export trade in the country to the new-comers; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this respect and with what result?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The advantages accruing to firms and persons having offices in port towns on grounds of geographical location cannot be conferred on people in inland towns by merely locating import and export offices at those places. Such persons should have no cause for complaint about lack of information since Government are giving adequate publicity to matters affecting exporters and importers by means of public notices, press notes etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Provisions already exist for issue of licences to new-comers for a large number of items.

(e) Does not arise.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : किन किन शर्तों पर लाइसेंस दिये जाते हैं ?

श्री कर्मरकर : गत पालिसी के बारे में जो बुक बपलिसा हुई है, उसको माननीय सदस्य पढ़ सकते हैं और आईन्दा पालिसी के बारे में जनवरी में पढ़ सकते हैं।

Shri C. D. Pande: Has it come to the notice of the Government that many new-comers find it difficult to get licences because their names were not there in the shippers' list for 1946, 1947 or 1948?

Shri Karmarkar: The definition of "new-comer" is that the name should not be there already. A new-comer is a new-comer. The very object of making these import licences available for new-comers is to encourage people to come into the import line period by period enlarging the number of items which are admissible for new-comers. By new-comers we do not mean people absolutely new to the trade. A new-comer is someone who has dealt with the same commodity in India.

Shri C. D. Pande: Does Government realise that in cotton trade there are persons who have got their names in the shippers' list and who alone are given licences for export?

Shri Karmarkar: I do not want to take up the time of the House by reading the whole list. There are certain items which are admissible for new-comers and there are certain items not admissible for new-comers. I am prepared to discuss the matter at any length of time with the hon. Member.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What percentage of our external trade is being carried on by new-comers?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think it was said to be 10 per cent.

Shri Karmarkar: I shall only give figures, for January-June, 1956.

For established importers the licence value was Rs. 92 crores. For actual users, people owning factories, requiring imported stuff for use in their factories, Rs. 191 crores. For new-comers it was Rs. 13 crores.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether it is a fact that in certain lines of import and export trade, licensing is completely banned so far as new-comers are concerned?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes. I think in some of the items they are completely banned. It will wholly dislocate things. It is not an advantage to give licences to new-comers. What a new-comer does with his licence, especially if it is small is for a commission to sell it to the port man.

An Hon. Member: Most of them are sold.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister need not answer questions put by hon. Members while they are sitting.

Shri Velayudhan: As reported in the press, the unfavourable trade balance in respect of imports and exports last year was about Rs. 400 crores. May I know whether any of the factors mentioned by the hon. Minister has contributed to such loss?

Shri Karmarkar: I could not follow the gist of the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nor could I. He may repeat the question.

Shri Velayudhan: The unfavourable trade balance is about Rs. 400 crores as reported in the press the other day. The hon. Minister mentioned some factors. Have they contributed to this unfavourable trade balance?

Shri Karmarkar: Have you been able to make out, Sir, the question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is more for the hon. Minister to answer.

Shri Karmarkar: I fear I have missed. I will surmise. That question of trade balances has nothing to do with the subject matter of this question. If trade balances are shorter, we shall adjust our import policy accordingly.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether it is a fact that some new-comers have purchased the properties of the established exporters and importers, and whether the Government have banned them also? There are some cases before the Government. All their applications have been banned for export import licences.

Shri Karmarkar: My esteemed colleague the Finance Minister is answering this question.

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I know there are certain cases of this kind. For transfer of quotas, there is a procedure laid down. If that procedure is followed and the authorities are satisfied that the transfer asked for is a *bona fide* transfer and the quota is necessary for carrying on the business, I am sure the authorities will give due weight to these considerations.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Apart from the jugglery of words of the hon. Commerce Minister, may we have a straight answer to the question in how many cases the department failed to deal when such licences are sold in the market to new-comers or old traders?

Shri Karmarkar: With regard to the type of transactions just now referred to by my esteemed colleague the Finance Minister, we go into the transactions and if there is a *mala fide* transaction, we do not allow. In all *bona fide* transfers, we do not want to deprive a new party in the old concern. What matters is the unit importing or exporting and not the person.