

Shri Karmarkar: For blenders also— and some of the fine tobacco which my hon. friend knows about.

TEA ESTATES IN ASSAM

*2112. **Shri Sanganna:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that European Tea planters in Assam have been contemplating to divert their capital to the Tea gardens in East Africa with a view to abandoning the Indian Tea gardens ultimately?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to protect the interests of the Indian Tea Industry?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Government have no information.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether Government are in receipt of such reports from any part of India?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not received any reports to the effect that they are trying to shift to East Africa.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Are Government not aware that some of them have already shifted to Kenya and Nyasaland?

Shri Karmarkar: I said we are not aware.

REPORT BY M. L. AS. ON HIRAKUD DAM

*2113. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report submitted by 23 Members of the Orissa State Assembly, who visited the Hirakud Dam recently and published in the "Times of India" Delhi Edition dated the 24th April, 1953, on page 5;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work on the Dam is greatly hampered because 50 costly machines have long been idle for want of minor repairs, as stated in the above report;

(c) whether large quantities of serviceable tools and material have been scrapped, as alleged by them; and

(d) whether the members have asked for a thorough investigation into the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Government have seen the news items published in the "Times of India" but they

are not aware of the contents of the report referred to therein. It is understood that the report was submitted to the Chief Engineer of Orissa.

(b) 32 machines are off the field at present of which only 12 have been idle for nearly a year. Sickness of these machines is of the order of 30 per cent, which is somewhat more than what it should be under ideal conditions. Work has been affected to this extent. The main difficulty has been in the procurement of spare parts for these specialised machines. Arrangements are being made for expeditious supplies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government are not aware of this recommendation.

Shri Gidwani: Have the Government made any enquiry from the Government of Orissa of the facts of the case?

Shri Hathi: Yes; we have addressed a letter to the Chief Minister of Orissa in this behalf.

Shri Gidwani: What is his reply?

Shri Hathi: We have not yet received it.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that there has been greater wear and tear of parts of some of the machines than ordinarily expected?

Shri Hathi: That has not been the case, with all the machines that have been out of order, but in the case of some that has been so.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that Government or the authorities there had to import spare parts for these machines by air even, because the machines were lying idle?

Shri Hathi: Because the work was suffering some parts had to be sent for even by air.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Will Government please obtain a copy of that report submitted by the Members of the Orissa Assembly to the Chief Minister and lay it on the Table of the House?

Shri Hathi: We shall address the Chief Minister of Orissa and get a copy of the report.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know when these machines were imported and how long after their import they went out of order and have been lying idle?

Shri Hathi: I have got detailed information as to for what period each