

HANDLOOM CLOTH MARKETING EMPORIA

***1851. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where Central Handloom Cloth Marketing Emporia have been opened or are proposed to be opened;

(b) what is the basis on which location of these has been decided; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to start any more emporia of this nature during this year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Emporia will be opened at Singapore, Colombo, Bangkok, Rangoon, Chittagong, Karachi and Aden.

(b) These are considered to be appropriate centres for our handloom cloth markets.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the total investment on these emporia?

Shri Karmarkar: The total estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 3.5 lakhs Government will contribute Rs. 2.87 lakhs, while the rest will be contributed by the Madras Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, which is collaborating with us.

Shri S. N. Das: What will be the form of management of these emporia?

Shri Karmarkar: We have proposed to appoint four Handloom Cloth Marketing Officers at Singapore, Rangoon, Colombo and Baghdad respectively, to act as liaison between Indian exporters and the overseas importers of handloom cloth, and also to open sales emporia at the places I have mentioned.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What is the assessment of Government, regarding the contribution made by these emporia in pushing up the sale of handloom cloth?

Shri Karmarkar: Assessment of the contribution of the emporia? Their

whole function will be to push up the sale of handloom cloth.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: May I know whether mobile emporia are proposed to be used for advertisement purposes?

Shri Karmarkar: These are stationary emporia.

TOILET SOAP

***1852. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any restriction has been imposed on import of toilet soap;

(b) the import figures of toilet soap for 1952-53, and 1953-54; and

(c) the quantity manufactured in the country?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 31.]

(c) About 14,000 tons.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know what is the consumption in the country, and whether the whole of it is being met from indigenous production?

Shri Karmarkar: The consumption has varied, but our normal requirements are produced—about 14,000 to 15,000 tons. During 1951, we produced 15,000 tons, in 1952 we produced 13,800 tons and in 1953 (January to November) 11,900 tons. That is the position.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How many foreign manufacturers of toilet soaps are working in India and what quantity do they produce?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice—there is at least one of them.

Shri Meghnad Saha: What is the installed capacity of toilet soap manufacture in the country?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the figure. But the installed capacity is

something more than what is produced in the country.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know what is the nature of the import restrictions that have been placed?

Shri Karmarkar: We have completely banned the import of toilet soaps, except that for the manufacture of certain types, for instance, what is known as 'dental soaps' (used in the manufacture of tooth-paste) and copper mercury soap (for the manufacture of anti-fouling ship bottom paints).

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if these restrictions work against the toilet beauty of the country, and has any resistance been shown by the class which will be affected by it?

Shri Karmarkar: I think my young friend is a better judge of that.

INDIAN TEA DELEGATION

*1853. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian delegation visited the U.S. and Canadian markets on behalf of the Indian Tea Industry; and

(b) if so, what has been the result of their tour?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A delegation was sent to represent the Government of India at the meeting of the Tea Council of the U.S.A. held in New York in October, 1953, to attend the 8th Annual convention of the Tea Association of the U.S.A. to widen contacts with American importers and packers of tea and to contact tea interests in Canada. The delegation carried out the work assigned to it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know who the members of this delegation were and whether any tea merchant was also present?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall give the names. The delegation consisted of:

1. **Shri A. S. Lall,** Consul-General for India in New York... Leader;

2. **Shri C. M. Kothari,** Member Central Tea Board...Member;

3. **Shri S. H. Davies,** Chairman, Indian Tea Association, and Member, Central Tea Board,... Member;

4. **Shri S. Krishnamurthy** of the Indian Embassy in Washington (for the second half of the tour).....Member.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any efforts are going to be made to have an organisation for the promotion of tea sales there on a permanent or semi-permanent basis?

Shri Karmarkar: I think we have had occasion to tell this House from this side that there has been an agreement with U.S. interests there to have an organisation of that kind, and we are contributing towards the expenses of that organisation. Regarding Canada, I think the matter is being negotiated.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What efforts are going to be made to make the Americans take to tea drinking much more than they do?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Syed Ahmed: We are drinking.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether it is proposed to have a separate Tea Market Expansion Board for Canada or the Board dealing with marketing in U.S.A. will be expanded to cover it?

Shri Karmarkar: The present idea is to have a separate organisation.

FLOOD PREVENTION IN ASSAM

*1854. **Shri S. C. Deb:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Iengar Committee recommended the collection of hydrological, contour and other data of the rivers in Assam which overflow and devastate large areas after the great earthquake of 1950; and