

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

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of India have created a River Investigation Division, which is functioning since 1st March, 1953, and is collecting hydrological data of 17 rivers in Assam at 26 sites situated in different parts of Assam, including the North-East Frontier Agency.

Shri S. C. Deb: What are the names of the rivers to be investigated, and whether it will be finished in the first Five Year Plan period?

Shri Hathi: All the 17 rivers—Brahmaputra, Subansiri, Bhorali, Puthimari, Nona, Boralia, Pagladiya, Buradiya, Tihu, Kalaidiya, Pahumura, Buri Dihing, Kopili, Barpani, Kiling, Barak and Katakhal. It will take about three years to collect the data.

Shri Bimlaprosad Chaliha: Will the Government consider opening of a second River Investigation Division?

Shri Hathi: In fact, the Assam Government has requested that a second Division should be opened for further investigation of other rivers. That is under consideration.

Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah: Are data going to be collected in regard to rivers in U.P. also to find out about the floods?

Shri Hathi: For the present, this is only for Assam.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether it is a fact that the river Bhorali has not yet been included in the hydrological investigation unit's programme up till now?

Shri Hathi: I have read out the 17 names of the rivers in Assam that are being investigated, if any particular river is not there, of course, I cannot say.

Shri Altekar: May I know to what extent the earthquake of 1950 has affected the area in Assam in so far as the overflow of the rivers is concerned?

Shri Hathi: I have no information at present.

Shri Bell Ram Das rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

WASHING AND CAUSTIC SODA FACTORY

*1855. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are ample resources for setting up a washing and caustic soda factory of considerable size at Ghatrapur in Orissa; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of Orissa have been asked to send a report on the resources in regard to their quantitative and qualitative aspects?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware that in some coastal places in Orissa there is production of common salt which is an important raw material for the manufacture of caustic soda and soda ash.

(b) A questionnaire for furnishing the information in respect of suitable sites for locating soda ash/caustic soda industries in the country has been addressed to all State Governments including that of Orissa.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that indigenous caustic soda is being manufactured in paper mills, and if so, whether it is available for public use?

Shri Karmarkar: I have no information about that. Some of them are producing caustic soda, but I do not think that it is available for general consumption. I speak subject to correction.

Shri Sanganna: May I know what steps have been taken by Government to make use of these minerals?

Shri Karmarkar: The Dhragandhra Chemicals and the Tata Chemicals are improving their production capacity to about 90,000 tons. There have been