

(d) whether the Japanese interests have a share in capital investment of these industries; and

(e) whether any agreements have been signed between Indian and Japanese interests concerned with these industries?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). Government have seen the Press report referred to but they have no information regarding the proposed visit of Japanese Engineers to India to set up medium sized industries.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

**PROCUREMENT OF COFFEE**

**\*308. Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the present method of procurement of coffee;

(b) the procurement price of coffee;

(c) whether there is any excise duty on the production of coffee and if so, at what rate;

(d) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Coffee Planters of Sirmulai Hills, Dindigul Taluk, Mathurai District in South India;

(e) whether these planters have drawn the attention of Government to various handicaps including financial losses they are made to face by the present procurement system; and

(f) what action Government have taken on the memorandum?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Under the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942, all coffee grown in the country has to be delivered to the 'surplus pool' maintained by the Indian Coffee Board. The Board has appointed pool agents in all the main coffee producing areas, who collect coffee from the producers.

(b) The price paid to coffee growers during the 1950-51 season for Plantation A coffee was Rs. 180-13-4 per cwt., with suitable differentials for the other varieties. For 1951-52 season, only part payments have been made as follows (for Plantation A, as on 30-9-1952):

Big estates	Rs. 135/- per cwt.
Small growers	Rs. 160/- " "

The price at recent auctions was Rs. 304-6-0. The balance after de-

ducting expenses of the Board and of propoganda, will be distributed to the growers.

(c) The excise duties on coffee are:

(i) Re. 1/ per cwt. on all coffee released in the internal market, levied under the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942.

(ii) Rs. 21/- per cwt. on all coffee released for internal consumption, levied under the Central Excise Act.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir.

(f) This matter is being examined.

**WOOL**

**88. Shri Karnal Singhji:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wool produced in India in 1951;

(b) how much of it came from Rajasthan and Bikaner Division in particular;

(c) the quantity of wool exported, together with its value, to foreign countries last year; and

(d) the possibilities of starting a woollen mill in Bikaner?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):**

(a) The estimated annual production of wool in India is 54.5 million lbs.

(b) Production in Rajasthan is estimated at 17.9 million lbs. out of which Bikaner produces about 4 millions lbs.

(c) During 1951-52 18,294,510 lbs. of wool valued at Rs. 4,89,69,533 was exported.

(d) The Industry has not so far approached Government in this connection. If any scheme is put forward, Government will examine it.

**TRADE WITH JAPAN AND WESTERN GERMANY**

**89. Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the value of annual imports from Japan and Western Germany since 1948;

(b) the value of annual exports to Japan and Western Germany since 1948; and

(c) the main items of exports to and imports from these countries?