

(a) the balance of trade of India during 1952-53;

(b) the invisible receipts during this period and from what countries and on what account; and

(c) the position of balance of payments during this period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 13.]

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know what was the main commodity which has led to this adverse balance of trade?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, the point is that our total exports have been less than our total imports leading to a deficit balance. It is not a particular commodity that leads to a deficit balance.

Shri K. K. Basu: What I want to know is this: is there any special reason that we have got to import particular things largely than what is normally done?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, it all depends from year to year. For instance last year the cotton imports were heavy. It all depends upon the vicissitudes of every year.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the American wheat which was diverted to Pakistan last year is included in this?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice. If it is diverted it is export.

Shri K. K. Basu: Arising out of answer to (b), can we get the category-wise break up of the figure?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: How does the position stand with regard to our terms of trade?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

MEMORIALS TO MAHATMA GANDHI

***877. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign countries where memorials to commemorate the memory of Mahatma Gandhi have been erected or are proposed to be erected; and

(b) the nature or form of these memorials in these countries?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 14.]

In brief, the position is that Gandhi memorials already exist in Brazil, Burma, Belgian Congo, Ceylon, Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Mauritius, Malaya, and the United Kingdom; and that proposals are being considered for having memorials in the U.S.A., New Zealand, British East Africa, British West Indies and Indo-China.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether all these memorials are results of non-official efforts or have the Governments of those countries associated themselves in any way with these memorials?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: As far as we have information, it is by other than official agencies.

Shri S. N. Das: In how many such cases the Government of India was consulted with regard to the nature or form of the memorials?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We were not directly consulted in most of the cases but naturally our Missions abroad took interest in the matter.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Minister will be in a position to give the position of the memorial to be erected in Delhi?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid, Sir, I have no information on the point.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Has any contribution been made by India either privately or from public coffers for raising the memorials in these countries?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The Government of India have themselves not contributed any money to any of these memorials but they have incurred small items of expenditure.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether any attempt was ever made to have a memorial in South Africa?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have ourselves made no effort, anywhere, Sir. It is the local people who have taken the initiative in the matter and from the information that we have at our disposal, it seems nothing has been done in South Africa.

IRON SCRAP (EXPORT)

***878. Shri Jasani:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how much iron scrap was exported from India in 1952 and to what countries?

(b) What was the amount of exchange gained by the export of this commodity?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 15.]

Shri Jasani: From the statement it is known that about 330 lakh tons scrap were exported to foreign countries annually. May I know why this was not utilised in our country when the re-rolling industry is suffering for want of scrap?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to make a correction. It is not annually, it is for the year 1952.

Shri Jasani: Why is it not utilised in our country when the re-rolling industry is suffering for want of scrap?

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid, Sir, my hon. friend's information is wrong. We are taking all steps to secure ample supplies for internal consumption. The difficulty is there are no electric furnaces to absorb the total scrap iron available in the country. We wish to see that our consumers do not suffer. At the present moment our Iron and Steel Controller is not issuing licences normally for export. We are reviewing the position.

Shri V. P. Nayyar: May I know whether Government are taking any steps to utilise the entire scrap iron, in India, for making up the deficiency of iron and steel in the country?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, Government are considering the installation of electric furnaces near Bhakra Nangal and Hirakud where cheap electricity can be available after the hydro-electric projects are completed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, out of the total figure for 1952 which has been given, which country has made the biggest bulk purchase?

Shri Karmarkar: The figures are there in the statement Japan 155,661 tons, next Italy 101,224 tons and then comes U.K. 51,785 tons.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact, Sir, that as a result of the exports, the scraps are selling in India at higher prices than in the countries to which they have been exported?

Shri Karmarkar: We are not aware of that, Sir.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether large quantities of scrap were

exported simply because there is no furnace here?

Shri Karmarkar: The scrap iron available in the country was far more than what was needed for internal consumption with the result that we have exported and by the export we get valuable foreign exchange.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Do we import raw material for steel production in this country?

Shri Karmarkar: So far as I think, 'No'.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल: क्या सरकार फरनेस बनाने के लिये जो दूसरे लोग और फर्मस ज्यादा उत्पाहित हैं उनको यह काम देने की कृपा करेगी?

श्री करमकर: अगर इस काम को अंडरटेक करने के लिये हमें वाकई रिलाय-बुल और उत्पाहित लोग मिलेंगे, तो हम जरूर उनको यह काम देंगे।

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is Government aware, Sir, that a huge amount of scrap iron and steel is lying idle in the Andamans? Have Government in contemplation any plan to collect that for proper utilisation?

Shri Karmarkar: If there is a lot of scrap in the Andamans and if it is useful for any purpose, the Government will be happy to utilise it.

SLUMP IN MICA INDUSTRY

***879. Shri Jajwre:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the reasons for the slump in the Mica Industry and what specific steps the Government of India are taking to stabilise it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): There is no evidence of any real slump in the mica industry. Leaving out 1951-52, the period of stock-piling, when there was an unusual rush to obtain supplies, the overall level of exports has been fairly well-maintained.

With the disappearance of a sellers' market, there is no doubt a demand from buyers that supplies should be made according to higher standards of quality.

For stabilising the industry, Government have been advised that the quality for export should be improved by adopting a universal standard for grading mica. Action is being taken