

under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research; the Committee's recommendations have now been received and are under examination.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government are aware that owing to the price fluctuations created by overseas buyers especially buyers from United States and United Kingdom, the industry has to go through periodic crises and that the crises affect thousands of people in the Travancore-Cochin State?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are a lot of assumptions in the question, I do not know if I would be correct in assuming that all these assumptions are correct. Undoubtedly it is true that there have been a lot of price fluctuations and price fluctuations also undoubtedly affect the interests of producers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Has the Government of India investigated the possibilities of increasing internal consumption of lemon grass oil especially for citron and Ionone content?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know if Government of India's enquiries have been in the direction indicated by the hon. Member. But, the Spices Enquiry Committee have undoubtedly made certain recommendations in regard to the domestic consumption of lemon grass oil and its production.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government are aware that on account of very extensive cultivation of lemon grass in places like Haiti, Guatemala, Belgian Congo, Brazil and Puerto Rico, the future of lemon grass in Travancore-Cochin and Malabar is uncertain and there may not be any cultivation by competition from those places?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is difficult for me to confirm all these assumptions. I understand that owing to certain changes in the methods

adopted by the manufacturers of Vitamin A in the United States, the off-take of lemon grass oil in that country has dropped. I do not know if all these facts stated by the hon. Member, are correct.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure export quality-control and may I also enquire whether there was a proposal to invoke powers under the Sea Customs Act to resort to grading and other things? May I know at what stage the proposal stands?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as my knowledge goes, nothing much has been done in regard to either export quality-control or grading. To a very large extent, Government's decision in the matter will depend upon how far they are prepared to accept the recommendations of the Spices Enquiry Committee.

EXPORT OF COAL

*803. { **Shri S. N. Mishra:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the export of coal since 11th May, 1953 when commercial charge on exports of coal was abolished; and

(b) if not, whether any further steps are contemplated?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No.

(b) The Government have authorised the Coal Commissioner to remove certain restrictions on the export of the superior grades of coal whenever he considered this necessary. The procedure for exports has also been simplified so that shippers may be free to explore foreign markets, locate purchasers and then seek the sanction of the Coal Commissioner for export. What further steps could be taken for promoting exports are under consideration.

Shri S. N. Mishra: What would be the amount of loss because of the abolition of the commercial charge on export of coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry I have not got the information ready at hand.

Shri S. N. Mishra: Is it Government's conclusion that the fall in export has not been due to the levy of this commercial charge?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No. The fall in exports cannot be said to be due to that reason because, as the hon. Member may be aware and as I have said in my answer, the abolition of these charges has not led to any appreciable increase in exports. That cannot be the main reason.

Shri S. N. Mishra: Do Government propose to re-levy this charge on export of coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is no proposal to re-levy. We abolished that with a view to see whether that step would increase the exports. There is no proposal to re-levy the duty.

EDIBLE OILS AND OIL-SEEDS

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

(a) the quantity or value of the export of edible oils up to October, 1953 as compared to the export last year during the same period;

(b) the export of oilseeds during the same period; and

(c) the difficulties experienced in the imposition of a small Cess on mill oil as recommended by the Planning Commission?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 28.]

(c) This proposal is being considered in consultation with the various interests concerned.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what was the reason for the shortfall in the exports of groundnut oil and oil-seeds?

Shri Karmarkar: Because we discouraged it.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether it would adversely affect the primary producers of groundnuts?

Shri Karmarkar: We do not think so.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the Government propose to abolish the export duty on all edible oils in view of the recent export recommendation of the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee that the export duty on all edible oils should be abolished?

Shri Karmarkar: That is another question. The answer is 'No'.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether it was one of the recommendations of the Planning Commission that all edible oils should be produced only by the *ghanis* and the mills should be confined only to the production of non-edible oils? The Government replied in the last session that the matter was under consideration. May I know whether the Government have arrived at any conclusion about this part of the recommendation of the Planning Commission?

Shri Karmarkar: With regard to the first part, yes. With regard to the second part, not yet.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether the Government are in a position to retain the pre-war situation as regards the export of oil-seeds?

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid, no.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO PUNJAB AND P.E.P.S.U.

***805. Shri D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state which districts of the Punjab and PEPSU will be supplied electricity under the Bhakra Nangal Project?