

JUTE GOODS (EXPORT)

***490. Shri Morarka:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the export of jute goods is falling this year as compared to the last two years?

(b) What is the main reason for the fall in exports?

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

(a) No, Sir. Exports of jute goods during the current financial year are slightly better than the average exports during the last two years.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether our exports of gunny bags and gunny cloth have fallen this year, as compared with those of the last two years?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member means sacking as against hessian? I think sacking exports have dropped—I would not be able to say precisely how much—and the tendency has been for sacking exports to drop.

Shri Morarka: I put the question on jute goods, because in the classified items published in the *Journal of Industry and Trade*, gunny bags and gunny cloth are classified as jute goods.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Gunny cloth is hessian, gunny bag is sacking. Sacking has shown a tendency to drop.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Is it a fact that the reduction in export is due to the development of jute substitutes in the importing countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said in answer to a previous question, the position of exports as compared to the boom years is rather difficult. In 1952-53, we had a setback merely because of some over-stocking in some countries in the previous years. And it is also difficult to isolate the causes. It may be due not so much

to substitutes for jute, as to substitutes by paper bags, and also bulk handling.

Shri N. L. Joshi: May I know the total value of exports this year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have only got the tonnage for the ten months in 1953-54. It is 6,50,000 tons. I have not got the value.

NEWSPRINT FROM SUGAR-CANE BAGASSE

***491. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the progress made in the attempts to manufacture newsprint from sugar-cane bagasse?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): There is at present no concrete scheme for the manufacture of newsprint from bagasse, of which progress could be reported. The Forests Research Institute at Dehra Dun have, however, recently conducted several experiments to establish that a satisfactory kind of printing paper could be manufactured from bagasse pulp mixed with 30 per cent. bamboo pulp. Attempts are now being made by that Institute to carry out trials in paper mills for determining the exact cost of production. Experiments have also been undertaken to bring down the cost of production of printing paper from bagasse.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if the Government is in a position to state the cost of production of newsprint from sugarcane bagasse and how it compares with the cost of that produced from other articles?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Experiments are being conducted and it is only after these experiments are completed that we may be able to evaluate the relative costs.

HANDLOOM

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

(a) whether, and if so, which of the State Governments have decided to