

Indian Delegation to Japan

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 *1291. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das :**
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh
Shri Shivanaajappa :

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Consumer Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official Indian delegation which visited Japan to discuss the supply of Indian ore to Japan has returned to India;

(b) if so, the result of such discussions; and

(c) the decision in this respect, if any?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). An understanding has been reached between Japan and India for purchase and sale of iron ore for the period from 1957-58 to 1961-62.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : May I know whether the deal will be on Government to Government basis or Government to private agency basis?

Shri Karmarkar : So far as I can see at the moment it is between the State Trading Corporation on our side and a combination of purchasers on the other in Japan.

Shri Kamath : Was the possibility of negotiating this matter with the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi explored before it was decided to waste public money on sending a delegation abroad?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member could as well omit the words "waste public money".

Shri Kamath : All right I will say "spend" public money.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member ought not to come to a conclusion before he hears the answer and decides whether it is a waste or otherwise.

Shri Karmarkar : I am very sorry he is much in a wrong box on this question, because the delegation went to Japan for a conference and along with that work without any extra expenditure they could conclude this deal.

Shri Kamath : No. expenditure?

Mr. Speaker : They went for another purpose; they did this incidentally. Therefore, no extra expenditure was incurred.

Shri R. P. Garg : Since Japan is a permanent buyer of our iron ore, May I know whether the possibility was explored of Japan putting up a smelting plant in India, exporting a portion of the finished goods to Japan, leaving the remaining portions in India for home consumption.

Shri Karmarkar : That is a suggestion which I shall convey to the relevant quarters.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : What are the terms of agreement of this deal? Will Japan supply consumer goods to India=

Shri Karmarkar : It is not correlated to other conditions. But we do expect Japan to respond by supplying whatever we want.

Shri R. P. Garg : May I know whether Japan sometime back gave this offer to India?

Shri Karmarkar : Let me make it quite clear that on our side this particular deal has been entered into by the State Trading Corporation and on the other side by private purchasers. So there is no question of a deal between India and Japan interpreted in terms of two States.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know if some Japanese companies in return for cars to be imported by them from Orissa are planning to build the Paradwip Port?

Shri Karmarkar : Some talks about helping the transport situation in Orissa went on last year but I do not think that it has progressed now.

Oil Supplies

*1293. **Shri Kajrolkar :** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Suez Canal crisis has affected the supplies of oil to this country;

(b) whether the supplies of crude oil to the refineries set up in this country have been kept up;

(c) if not, what alternative sources Government propose to tap in order to keep the refineries in operation to full capacity; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to build up sufficient stocks of oil to meet the requirements of the country in all eventualities?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). There has been no deterioration in the supply position of Petroleum and its products, but the position is reviewed from time to time.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Shri Kajrolkar: When is the Suez Canal expected to be reopened for navigation?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): I am sorry I cannot enlighten the hon. Member on that.

Shri Kajrolkar: How long is the existing stock of crude oil expected to last?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know what the hon. Member means by "existing stock" as if it were lying anywhere. Our sources of crude oil are Persia, Saudi Arabia and other places.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What is the stock position of petroleum and crude oil in the country at present and how far can it feed the country at the present rate of consumption?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got the figures, but she should not have any concern over that.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether there is any prospect of petrol rationing during the coming elections?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is this any suggestion for action? If it is, I shall consider it.

Shri Kamath: Is there any apprehension?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There need not be any apprehension.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister must have seen from the morning papers that petrol is proposed to be rationed in England. Suez being midway between us, there are naturally apprehensive as to what will happen in the elections. Therefore, they are anxious to know whether there will be a shortage of petrol during the elections and there will be rationing. It is only the hon. Minister who can give an answer here.

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no apprehension.

Mr. Speaker: So, there need be no apprehension.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्वेज कैनल के द्वारा हर साल कितना तेल आता है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह: कहां का आता है ? स्वेज कैनल के रात तो योरप को जाता है क्योंकि सोस तो ज्यादातर पशिया और सजदी अरब हैं।

अभ्यक्ष महोदय: यहां सीधे आता है।

Trade with Afghanistan

*1295. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state:

(a) how the inclusion of Afghanistan in the "transferable account area" has affected the Indian export trade to that country; and

(b) If adversely the steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) There has been some decline in our exports since 1954 but it is difficult to say whether this decline has resulted from Afghanistan's inclusion in the Transferable Account Area.

(b) Measures to promote exports to Afghanistan are under consideration.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether it is a fact that due to inclusion of Afghanistan in the 'transferable account area' the export of green tea of the Kangra valley has declined?

Shri Karmarkar: As I have said, it is difficult to say whether decline in the export of green tea like other items has been directly due to inclusion of Afghanistan in the 'transferable account area'. But it is a fact that green tea has suffered so far as our exports to Afghanistan are concerned. We are seized of that problem and we are taking measures which are possible to see whether exports of tea could not be further increased.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know by what time the steps which Government are contemplating to take will be completed, so that stocks which are lying at Amritsar may be disposed of?

Shri Karmarkar: Our information, subject to correction, is that one of the difficulties in the way of selling our green tea to Afghanistan is the competitive prices at which Japan is offering. So, if the Amritsar merchants offer our tea at competitive prices that may be a solution. But, as I said, we are having this matter considered.