

talked to him. They did not seem to be feasible at all.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask whether Government would consider favourably the proposition that they should not hold formal consultations with non-nationals about the internal affairs of this country? Rev. Michael Scott is certainly a very big person, but I do not see any reason why we should hold formal consultations with him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We do not hold such formal consultations and we did not hold any formal consultations with Rev. Michael Scott. If the proposal is that we should not meet any foreigner, that would be going a little too far, I think, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Prime Minister's attention must have been drawn to the various writings that are appearing in papers like the Daily Express and the Daily Mail and to some extent in the Daily Mirror on this subject following the visit by Rev. Michael Scott here. May I know, Sir, whether the High Commissioner's office in London has issued any press communique or any other information so that the position is clarified as to what happened when Rev. Michael Scott came and met the Prime Minister here? There is a lot of confusion made in the British press.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The High Commissioner's office has frequently issued communiques, handouts and corrections to the British press, has written letters to them, but is rather difficult—well—to make the people see who keep their eyes shut.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Is it a fact, Sir, that Rev. Michael Scott went to the Prime Minister to make out a case in favour of the independence of the Nagas in place of the Nagaland that we have given

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them? Is it a fact that he went to put a case for strengthening the case of Mr. Phizo who is demanding independence for the Nagas?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Well, he did not say that to us, and I think that on the whole he realized that that was not a feasible proposition. What he wanted more or less was that Mr. Phizo should be allowed to have his say and that we should deal with him.

DECLINE IN TEA EXPORTS

*48. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the steps Government intend to take and is taking to raise the export of tea?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

An Export Promotion Committee assisted by panels for different regions has been set up by the Tea Board.

India participates in the Tea Councils set up in the U.S.A., Canada, West Germany and Ireland.

India has entered into bilateral trade agreements with a number of countries in which tea has been included as an export item.

Tea Promotion Officers have been appointed in U.S.A., Australia, U.A.R. and U.K. to look after the interests of Indian tea. Steps are being taken to send similar officers to West Germany and Iraq. A Tea Centre is being opened at Cairo.

The following measures have been taken to increase the exportable surplus of Indian tea and to improve its quality: —

1. A Scheme providing for supply of machinery and equipment on Hire Purchase basis has

been introduced by the Tea Board with a total outlay of Rs. 2 crores.

2. A pilot scheme has been sanctioned for the grant of loans to marginal gardens in Cachar, Tripura, Kangra and Mandi for repairs, replacements and renovation of tea machinery.
3. Efforts are being made to augment the supply of fertilizers to tea gardens in spite of foreign exchange difficulties.
4. A fertiliser subsidy is being given by the Tea Board to all gardens upto 300 acres in Cachar and Tripura.
5. With a view to affording assistance to small producers in South India, the Tea Board have sanctioned loan to the Tea Manufacturing Cooperative Society in Nilgiris towards the cost of the setting up of a factory.
6. The Tea Board are arranging technical advice to smaller tea gardens in different regions.
7. Permission for extensions of tea plantations is being given by the Tea Board liberally.
8. The period for uprooting bushes from replanted areas has been extended from three to eight years.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: The statement shows that India has entered into bilateral trade agreements with a number of countries. May I know, Sir, the names of those countries?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There are several countries, for example, Tunisia and Morocco. Also Egypt and Iran.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, what quantity of tea was exported within the last two years?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, the tea exported during 1959 was 472 million pounds. For this year, I mean, 1960, though the final figures have not yet been received, the estimate is that about 435 million pounds have been exported.

SHRI S. C. DEB. May I know, Sir, whether in the London market there is a decline for tea?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: No, Sir; there is no decline in demand. The export of tea in 1960 is somewhat less than in 1959 because of the fact that the tea crop in the north-east suffered to the extent of about 37 million pounds due to the drought conditions in the beginning of the year. Thus? there has been some shortfall.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it true that in some of these items at least we get less in money value than before while we supply even a greater quantity of tea, comparatively speaking? The price is declining, I mean to say.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The terms of trade position has been better than . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to know about the price—I am not talking so much about the quantity, etc. I want to know whether the international prices have affected somewhat adversely our export trade as far as tea is concerned.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: No,, Sir, . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The rates are better, he said.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Almost all the exportable surplus is in demand and has been supplied, and the prices that we have received are favourable. They have not affected the exports. The prices have been better. In spite of a reduction in the exports to the extent of 37 million lbs., the foreign exchange loss will

not be more than rupees three to four crores.

SHRI N. M. LING AM: May I know, Sir, if the Government have noticed appreciable spurt in our exports after the appointment of Tea Promotion Officers in New York and other centres?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: They have been appointed very recently. It is too early to say whether by their effort the exports will increase. It is not possible to increase exports considerably unless we produce more tea and attention is being diverted towards that end.

SHRI N. M. LING AM: May I know, Sir, what is the need for appointing these officers in countries where we already have Tea Councils for the promotion of tea consumption in those countries?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The Tea Councils, in which several tea producing countries join, carry on propaganda for promotion of tea-drinking habit. Our Tea Promotion Officers will pay specific attention to the promotion of Indian tea in these countries.

LOCATION OF HEAVY ELECTRICAL PLANTS

*49. SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding the location of the Heavy Electrical Plants included in the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what is the name of the place where it will be located; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be implemented during the Second is expected to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c)

Not yet, Sir. The decision will be taken shortly.

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस कारखाने की जगह के लिये महाराष्ट्र में कोई साइट देखी गई है और इस कारखाने के लिए कौन कौन से देशों से मदद मिलने वाली है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : एक तो रसा से मदद मिलने वाली है और दूसरे चेकोस्लोवाकिया से मदद मिलने वाली है और अलग अलग साइट्स अलग अलग स्टेटों के अन्दर देखी जा रही हैं

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether a sub-committee has been asked to go round and look into the sites and whether they have given any specific recommendations?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is what I said in my answer. Their report may be awaited.

SETTING UP OF A CYCLE-TYRE FACTORY IN KERALA

*50. SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations are afoot between the State Government and the Government of India for the setting-up of a cycle-tyre factory in Kerala; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). An expansion license has been already issued to the Kerala State and expansion is under implementation.

SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: May I know, Sir, whether the scheme will be implemented during the Second Five Year Plan itself?