

SHRI KISHEN CHAND : In view of the fact that tea is one of the principal exports, what steps are taken by Government in order to increase production so that we may increase our export of tea? ,

SHRI N. KANUNGO : Apart from the recommendations of the Commission, various steps are taken to increase the export particularly of tea, and also coffee.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND : What steps?

SHRI N. KANUNGO : I would like to have notice for that question, so that I could give a comprehensive reply.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Is it not a fact that the Commission has pointed out that increase in production is being resisted by the British sector of the industry and that, since increased production is necessary for increasing our exports, immediate steps should be taken to see that certain overhauls are effected in the structure of the industry?

SHRI N. KANUNGO : There have been more than one hundred recommendations, and one of the main recommendations is about replanting.

DEMANDS OF THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN CHETHU THOZHILALI UNION

*18. { SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR :
SHRI N. C. SEKHAR :

Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state the demands put forward by the Travancore-Cochin Chethu Thozhilali Union and the steps taken to meet those demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : The State Government reports that there is no such union but there is a Federation known as Travancore-Cochin Chethu Thozhilali Federation, Alleppey, which demanded that an Industrial Relations Committee for the tapping industry be constituted. That demand is under consideration of the State Government.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR : May I know whether they have demanded that alternative employment should be given to them if prohibition is introduced there?

SHRI ABID ALI : According to my information this was the only demand, *i.e.*, about the appointment of an Industrial Sub-Committee.

DEMANDS OF THE ALUMINIUM FACTORY WORKERS UNION, ALWAYS

*19. { SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR :
SHRI N. C. SEKHAR :

Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Aluminium Factory Workers Union, Always; and if so, what are the demands of the Union; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) No. But, it is reported by the State Government that a memorandum was presented by the union to the management of the Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd., in June 1956, demanding 6 months' wages as bonus for the year 1955-56.

(b) Direct negotiation between the parties and conciliation by the State Government conciliation machinery having failed to bring about a settlement, the dispute was referred to a tribunal on 2nd August 1956.

EXPORT OF SHOES TO RUSSIA

*20. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND CONSUMER INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has agreed to supply shoes to Russia;

(b) if so, what is the estimated value of the proposed export; and

(c) what is the channel through which this export would be handled?

THE MINISTER FOR TRADE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 1,18,05,000.

(c) State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if any consignments of shoes have already been sent; and, if so, how many pairs?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Consignments, so far as I could say off-hand, have not yet been sent. Only recently this bargain was struck. Samples were called for; they were sent to the Russians. They approved of the samples and the whole contract is in the process of being executed.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, if there is any machinery instituted for checking the quality of shoes being sent to Russia?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Has the Government taken any steps to see that on account of the export of these shoes, the local prices of shoes do not shoot up?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We are not afraid of any rise in the local price of shoes, unless the buyers are indiscreet.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Minister the value of hides and skins exported out of India, as compared to the shoes that are going to be exported now?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I shall be happy to answer that if I am given notice.

SHRI P. D. HIMATSINGKA: May I know, Sir, if the transaction is between State and State or between private parties?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: As I have said in the original reply, the export was canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India which, as my hon. friend knows, is a Corporation supported by the State.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know, Sir, whether these shoes are in the nature of production by large factories or in the nature of production by small scale industries or cottage industries?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The three parties from whom we would obtain the supplies are: (i) Messrs. Cooper, Allen and Company; (ii) Messrs. Bharat Kalakendra Ltd; and (iii) Messrs. National Small Industries Corporation. But at the present time, as my hon. friend knows, even the large scale manufacturers have to get substantial quantities through the small scale manufacturers and we retain an overall supervision to see to it that the small man is not thrown to the wall.

Dr. D. H. VARIAVA: Will the hon. Minister let me know if these shoes are for civilian use or for military use?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That is more than I can say—maybe civilian, maybe military. I cannot say without notice.

ACCIDENTS IN COLLIERIES NEAR ASANSOL

*21. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry has been made in regard to the recent accidents which occurred in the collieries near Asansol; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the inquiry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b). Two major fatal accidents occurred one at Burra Dhemo Colliery and the other at Binodikatta Colliery in West Bengal during September 1956. A 'Court of Inquiry' has been set up to investigate into the causes and circumstances which led to the accident at Burra Dhemo Colliery. The report of the Inquiry Officer in respect of accident at Binodikatta Colliery is awaited.