

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether Chambers of Commerce have been consulted regarding this scheme?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir; we have always consulted the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether they have agreed to adopt the scheme on the lines of the scheme existing in the U.K.?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think it would be better if the hon. Member studies the long statement and then tables the question.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: I have gone through the statement and I do not find therein whether the Chambers of Commerce have approved this scheme; or a scheme on the lines existing in the U.K. So, I wanted to know, if at all they have given any information, whether the opinion is in favour of having a scheme like this.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I assume that my hon. friend has studied the statement. The U.K. Scheme mentioned in the statement on page 1 contains about seven different items and I think, Sir, it would be very difficult for me to state categorically as to which Chamber has differed or agreed with all these things.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: But I would like to know whether generally they have agreed?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Generally it is considered advisable to have such a scheme.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether—if at all the Scheme is to be accepted by the Government—they will also incorporate in it a scheme for arbitration of trade disputes which is being agitated by the trade interests in India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, the question is of insuring either any

exporter from here or an importer from abroad against any possible losses under stated conditions. I am not aware that the question of arbitration arises in this matter. But if my hon. friend has any constructive suggestions I would be very happy if he would forward them to us.

PROF. G. RANGA: May I know, Sir, if the Scheme is being formulated in pursuance of any recommendation made by the Export Promotion Advisory Committee?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, the Export Promotion Advisory Committee, as my hon. friend is doubtless aware, did consider this matter; and later on it was decided at their meeting on 22nd May that the views of individual members should be obtained. Now, the members have forwarded their opinions and along with other opinions we are considering them.

PROF. G. RANGA: Did the Government have before them when they formulated the Scheme the experience the Government had during the War when they had a similar scheme in order to protect our own exporters who were incurring fluctuations in the currency rates and other matters.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, we are doubtless considering all our past experience.

GANDHI MEMORIAL

*39. **SHRI D. NARAYAN:** Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to purchase the prayer ground where Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead and to construct some Memorial on it; and

(b) whether any effort is being made to secure Aga Khan Palace at Poona, where Mahatma Gandhi was detained during the 'Quit India' Movement?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, the reasons for that?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: This matter was raised in the Parliament about four or five years ago and the various viewpoints were considered and the position of the Government was made clear that as no great difficulty was being experienced by any person who wanted to visit that place, it was not considered necessary to acquire the place. Moreover, in view of the circumstances in which that unfortunate incident, that tragic incident happened, it was not considered necessary to acquire it for the Nation.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will it not be desirable to acquire it and make it a public property?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have already attempted to answer that.

PROF. G. RANGA: What about the answer with regard to part (b), that is, the Aga Khan Palace? Are there similar objections to Government acquiring that Palace?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Actually it is for the first time that even a suggestion to this effect has been made. It has never been raised before, not to my knowledge. I have looked into the earlier debates and the earlier papers. It has been suggested for the first time. The question will not obviously be viewed only from this angle as to whether there is any objection to this or not. Whether it is a compelling necessity, that I think would be the consideration.

PROF. G. RANGA: Therefore, would all these considerations be again re-considered later on by Government, because after all the word "compelling" is a very difficult word to define and especially in this connection would be rather objectionable?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not know, Sir. That will be a question of opinion. But at the moment at least there does not appear to be an obvious case for acquiring this.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: My question is this. Is it the hon. Minister's suggestion that the Government feel that the people do not want that the property there should be acquired and kept as a national property?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not say so. But the people have not as yet, either themselves or through their representatives, pressed this point.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is it the only ground standing in the way of the Government acquiring the property, that the people have not pressed the point?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is the question you have put, whether this is the reason—the people not pressing the point—and this is a fact.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if any representations were made to the Government two years ago from several bodies?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Is the hon. Member referring to the Aga Khan's house or to the other place? So far as I know, the question of the Aga Khan's house being acquired has not come before us at any time. There are quite a number of houses with which Gandhiji is associated. He stayed there. And this matter really comes within the purview now of the Gandhi Memorial Fund. They look into these matters. And, as I said, this is the first time really that the question about Aga Khan's palace has been raised. So far as the other matter is concerned, we never thought in terms of raising a memorial there. What we were interested in was that the public should have free access and that it should be separated and kept apart. It has been separated, kept apart, and the public have got

free access there, and there is a small tableau there stating the facts. So, in effect, that is functioning as a kind of sacred place, and anybody can go there.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any objection in acquiring the Aga Khan's palace, especially in view of the fact that the Samadhi of two leading persons of India is situated in the Aga Khan's palace?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have nothing to add to what has just now been stated by the Prime Minister.

PROF. G. RANGA: Arising out of the answer given by the Prime Minister, my point is only this. I am sure that the hon. Prime Minister is aware of the fact that Kasturba's as well as Mahadev Desai's remains are interred there, and that is one of the reasons why this question should be considered by the Government.

'D' CLASS MATCH FACTORIES

*40. **SHRI D. NARAYAN:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'D' class match factories working at present in the country; and

(b) what is their daily total production and investment?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Six.

(b) An average of 22 gross boxes. Investment figures are not available.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if there is any proposal to levy a cess on the production of 'A' class factories to protect the 'B' class and 'C' class factories?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes, the rebate is on a differential basis, according to classification.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What rebate is being paid to 'D' class factories?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: At the rate of nine annas per gross for sixties and six annas per gross for forties.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, the licence fee that is being accepted from the 'D' class factories?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There is no licence fee.

SPINNING MILLS

*41. **SHRI D. NARAYAN:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any spinning mills have been started in the country during the last three years; and, if so, what is the number of spindles employed in those mills; and

(b) whether it is proposed to start any spinning mills in Bengal; and if so, for what purposes?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir; 15 spinning mills with a total spindleage of 94,934.

(b) There is a proposal of the nature intended to give employment, especially to displaced persons and make available yarn to cottage industries.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know the reasons why new spinning mills are being started when there is a proposal for having 17 lakhs of Ambar Charkhas?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, that is for the West Bengal Government to decide, because the proposals have come from that Government.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Are not the Ambar Charkhas going to be spread in Bengal?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: That is for the West Bengal Government to decide.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is that not the proposal of the All India Khadi Board, to spread all those 17 lakhs of Ambar Charkhas throughout India?