

EGYPTIAN TRADE DELEGATION TO INDIA

*310. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Egyptian trade delegation arrived in India in December last;

(b) what are the subjects discussed with that trade delegation; and

(c) whether any agreement has been arrived at as a result of these discussions; if so, what are the brief outlines of the agreement?

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

(b) and (c). The delegation had no official discussions with Government.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Was it an official delegation or a non-official delegation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It was sponsored by the Egyptian Government, but so far as we were concerned their contact with us was informal.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: What do the Government mean by saying that they "had no official discussions"? Am I to understand that the Government had no touch with them either?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: My hon. friend knows very well that when there is official discussion there is an agenda and specific subjects are discussed. When they came here they met the Prime Minister and the Minister for Commerce and Industry, and they had also discussions with the officials of the External Affairs Ministry, but their function as such was not to carry on formal negotiations with the Government. That is what is meant by "had no official discussions with Government".

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether in these unofficial discussions the question of exporting cottage industry products to Egypt came up?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There were discussions of a general nature. In this connection I may say that we have already entered into an agreement with them.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Was anything given definite shape as a result of these discussions?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR. Nothing was meant to take shape and nothing took definite shape as a result of this.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Did the question of importing cotton form part of these discussions?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have no precise information on that point.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the delegation came here of their own accord or they were invited by the Government?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Of their own accord with our goodwill.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Was it a Government-sponsored delegation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir.

REVISION OF TRADE AGREEMENTS

*311. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade agreements with Italy and Sweden have been revised; and

(b) if so, the changes effected by the revision?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

RECOVERY OF LOANS FROM DISPLACED PERSONS

*312. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans not recovered from displaced persons due