

and so I do not know. But, I think, there were talks, discussions, speeches, films, discussions about "Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy and that sort of thing went on.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Sir, may I know whether Indian residents of New York or some other place where these cultural functions are held are invited to these functions? Have Government any information on that?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It all depends on the residents, and the mere fact of being a resident might not be very helpful. If it is an intellectual discussion Indians interested in such discussions will be invited, not a shopkeeper who is not interested in such things. It is a select gathering where discussions take place and certainly many Indians interested in the subject do go there; but not all of them. There are thousands and thousands and they are not all invited.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Are these cultural functions meant for intellectuals only or are they also intended for the purpose of bringing the two peoples together?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It depends on the nature of the function. If it is a symposium for discussion on a subject only, a few people are invited. But if it is a big show, something in the nature of public meetings, then everybody is invited.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: When this information is collected, will the Prime Minister be pleased to place it on the Table of the House?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Of course.

EXPORT OF IRON ORE

*363. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire Sandur iron ore is exported outside India;

(b) for how long it would last at the present rate of exploitation;

(c) whether foreigners are exploiting that ore;

(d) whether export agents also are foreigners;

(e) whether Government have any proposals to start an iron and steel plant in South India to make use of the iron ore there: and

(f) whether the Sandur iron ore is one of the richest kind in India?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNA-MACHARI): (a) Information is not available, since statistics of iron ore exports are not maintained on a regional basis.

(b) It is estimated that the reserves are about 130 million tons and the average annual output of ore is about 31,000 tons.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is not available for the reason stated in reply to part (a).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir. It is somewhere about 63 to 67 per cent.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know if iron ore is being exported from ports in Madras State to foreign countries?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I cannot answer the question precisely. It may be that some export takes place from Madras or Marmagaoa or Bombay.

SHRI B. RATH: Sir, the hon. Minister is not at all audible.

PROF. G. RANGA: May I know whether recently some restrictions were imposed by Government on those people who usually export iron ore from these places—Bombay and other places?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It is not a restriction that was imposed. It was merely a rearrangement of the facilities.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The hon. Minister is hardly audible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says it is not a restriction, but only a rearrangement.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: ;So far as exports through Bombay are concerned, they are now free. With regard to exports through Calcutta and Madras, there are still certain restrictions; but people are allowed to export about 25 per cent, of what they exported last year. The other matters are under investigation and "Government's orders will issue in a short time.

PROF. G. RANGA: In view of the fact that already there has been so much difficulty experienced by those who had mined or purchased it, in the matter of exporting it, should not these restrictions or regulations give special preference to these persons who have already been in the line and who had already purchased it, over those ■who are purchasing it only now?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The rearrangement contemplated by Government is with a view to help those people who have been hindered by the original regulations, and the hon. Member, if he waits for a short time, will find the people who have not been treated very fairly in his opinion will be treated more fairly in future.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: May I know whether the Sandur iron ore goes to the Andhra State or to the Mysore State?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The hon. Member is as well conversant with this subject as I am.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is himself a miner.

FOREIGN EXPERT TO ADVISE MARKETING OF HANDICRAFTS

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

(a) whether the services of a foreign expert were obtained to advise the Government of India and the State Governments in regard to marketing of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the particulars of the expert including the duration of his stay and remuneration; and

(c) the work done so far by the expert in India?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI):

(a) No.

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

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: In the Report on Commerce and Industry for the year 1952-53 it is stated that the services of an expert on handicrafts have been obtained through the Technical Co-operation Administration, U.S.A., to advise the Central and State Governments with regard to the marketing of handicraft products. In view of the present reply, may I know whether this statement in the report is incorrect?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It is not a question of marketing. There was an expert whose services were obtained through the Community Projects Administration and that was with regard to handicrafts development.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: But I have read from the Report in which it is stated that an expert to advise the Central and State Governments on the marketing of handicrafts was brought here.

PROF. G. RANGA: There is some mistake somewhere.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: There are various people coming and.....

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: So many of them that it is difficult to keep track of them.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: There was another person who was

invited and who is not so much connected with marketing, not so much an expert, but he could do business. He came on a visit to this country and as a result we sent some exhibits to an exhibition in Paris and that exhibition has been successful. And we do hope that something will come out of it. It is difficult to say exactly what particular visit was made for the particular thing which the hon. Member has in mind.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government examined the marketing possibilities abroad for Indian handicrafts?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That, Sir, is a continuous process. We are trying very hard to see if we can find markets for our handicraft products; and we do it by means of exhibitions and we have also in mind the opening of emporiums in London and a few others in other parts of (the world).

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government considered the question of sending an expert abroad for exploring such possibilities for the marketing of our handicrafts?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Well, yes, in the sense that people who are in charge of these things are experts. An officer connected with the managing of the exhibitions has undertaken a tour recently for conducting an exhibition in Canada. As I have said, some business has resulted from these things and it is possible that in co-operation with some Canadian interests we may be able to open show-rooms in Canada. It is also possible that there is some chance of business resulting in the western States of the U.S.A.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: He should speak a little louder.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I believe in answer to a question the other day it was stated that an American was brought into this country to advise on

the possibilities of marketing cottage industries products in America. Has the hon. Minister any information on that?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That was an American who came from Macy's Stores to see how far they could help us in the marketing of our handicraft products.

*365. [*The questioner (Shri H. C. Maihv.r) was absent.*]

ARTISTES IN A. I. R.

*366. SHRI N. S. HARDIKER: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many casual artistes are there at present on the rolls of the A.I.R.;

(b) how many of them have been auditioned up till now under the new system of audition; and

(c) whether the system of audition, has resulted in any improvement in the standard of music?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : (a) It is presumed the figures required are in respect of musicians. On 1st January 1953, there were about 7,500 casual artistes on the roll. The inclusion of a casual artiste in the roll does not, however, mean that he must necessarily be given programmes.

(b) 2,318.

(c) It is somewhat early to assess; the results of the system of audition as it has not yet been completed; the-system is, however, sure to improve the standard of music by eliminating artistes of low standard and encouraging artistes of merit.

SHRI N. S. HARDIKER: How many of these artistes were summoned for audition?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I would require notice.