

(b) if so, what are those firms and what action Government have taken in the matter, and

(c) whether there is any ban on the export of coal to any country in the world?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K C REDDY) (a) Yes.

(b) Messrs Binnis Mercantile Company, Limited, Calcutta, and Messrs Bird & Company, Limited, Calcutta, asked for the abolition of the additional (commercial) charge on coal exports in order to make Indian coal prices competitive in foreign markets. This question had already been under the consideration of the Government and a decision was taken to abolish the commercial charge with effect from 11th May 1953. In addition, Messrs Associated Agencies, a new firm, asked for permission to offer 80,000 tons to Japan. The permission was not granted by the Coal Commissioner as the firm had neither any colliery nor any experience in coal export. Messrs Ram Saran Das & Bros. have just applied for export of 5,000 tons of coal to Japan and the matter is under consideration.

(c) There is no ban on the export of coal to any country except South Africa.

EXPORT OF RUBBER

39 SHRI M VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the quantity and value of rubber purchased from India by the United Kingdom, Ceylon, Canada, France and the United States of America during the last three years?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D P KARMARUR): A statement is attached [See Appendix V, Annexure No 8].

EXPORT OF SALT

40. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state.

(a) the names of the countries which are competing with India in the sale of salt to Japan, Pakistan and Nepal,

(b) whether there are any other countries to which India is exporting salt,

(c) whether there is any custom duty levied on the export of salt, and

(d) which are the countries in the world which import salt?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K C REDDY): (a) According to the information available with Government, Spain, Italy, Middle East countries and Aden are competing with India in exporting salt to Japan, and Pakistan is no longer importing salt from any other country. In regard to exports of salt from India to Nepal, there is no competition.

(b) Salt is also exported to Burma and Maldive Islands and some other countries, but the quantities are negligible.

(c) No.

(d) The information is not readily available.

SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES

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

(a) what are the raw materials imported for the manufacture of matches in India, and at what cost and from which countries,

(b) whether the South Indian match companies have made any representations regarding the difficulties experienced by them in obtaining the raw materials for the manufacture of matches if so what action Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the competition by the Western India Match Company has greatly affected

the trade of the South Indian match companies?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) The important raw materials imported are phosphorus, potassium chlorate, sulphur, glue, starch and kraft paper; the imports are mostly from USA, UK, France, Sweden and Belgium.

Information in regard to the import value of these raw materials consumed by the match industry is not available.

(b) Yes, Sir, mainly about the supply of sulphur. The supply position of sulphur has now eased to a considerable extent.

(c) It is not possible to assess the effects of competition with any exactitude, but the production of matches by the smaller units has shown a progressive increase in South India over the last three years while the production of the Western India Match Co Madras appears to have declined.

EXPORT OF GINGER AND IMPORT OF GINGER OIL

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

(a) the measures adopted by Government to prevent the export of ginger and import of ginger oil;

(b) the value of ginger exported and ginger oil imported during the last three years; and

(c) the names of the countries to which we export ginger and the names of the countries from which we import ginger oil?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Ginger is produced in abundance in the country and it is, therefore, not necessary to control its export. As there is practically no production of ginger oil in the country and internal require-

ments are met from imports, it is not possible to stop its imports.

(b) and (c). A statement, showing value of ginger exported to different countries in the last 3 years, is attached. Imports of ginger oil are not recorded separately in official statistics and are, therefore, not available. [See Appendix V, Annexure No. 9.]

EXTENT OF INDIA'S REQUIREMENT MET BY IMPORTED ROCK-SALT

43. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much of India's requirement of rock-salt is met by imports; and

(b) which are the places in India where rock-salt is found?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) No rock-salt has been imported into India since December, 1951. No part of our requirement of rock-salt is therefore met by imports.

(b) Rock salt deposits are found in Guma, Drang and Maigal in Mandi District, Himachal Pradesh.

COKE MANUFACTURING CONCERNS

44. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coke manufacturing concerns in India owned by (i) private agencies and (ii) Government;

(b) what bye-products of coke are prepared in the factories and in what quantities; and

(c) what is India's requirement of these bye-products?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) (i) Seven.

(ii) One.