

(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 Maldiv 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