

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: If the answer to one portion was available, it should have been supplied.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I said "the information is being collected". I cannot say anything until I get the information.

SHRI B. RATH: May I know the number of excavators which were purchased from Disposals for the Damodar Valley and the Hirakud projects?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: May have been purchased.

SHRI B. RATH: May I know if it is a fact that half of these disposals products were completely useless?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is a matter of opinion. I cannot say.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know how many of these excavators had been under repair after their purchase?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, "Information is being collected."

SHRI B. GUPTA: Do I understand that the excavators were purchased without the sanction of the Centre?

MR. CHAIRMAN: About all that, he says, information is being collected.

SHRI B. GUPTA: With regard to payment for the excavators, may I know if any portion of the payment with respect to the excavators was withheld by the authorities?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I want notice.

FOREIGN AND INDIAN EMPLOYEES IN FOREIGN FIRMS

*216. DR. N. DUTT: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Chambers of Commerce of foreign companies have not supplied the information relating to the number of foreign and Indian employees in the superior cadre;

(b) whether the allowances given to foreign officers employed by foreign companies in India compare unfavourably with those of similar Indian officers; if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the allowances are subject to income-tax and super-tax; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any limit to the remittances of a foreign officer to his homeland; and

(e) how many foreign and Indian officers have been made Directors of foreign companies during the years 1951 and 1952?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) Only individual firms were expected to furnish the information.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Yes, I understand certain allowances are taxed.

(d) *Sterling Area Nationals*.—Up to £150 per month without prior permission of the Reserve Bank.

Non-Sterling Area Nationals.—Such amount as may be approved by the Reserve Bank.

(e) The information is not available.

DR. N. DUTT: Is it not a fact that the allowances given to the officers are varied from month to month in order to escape assessment for income-tax?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am afraid I am not competent to answer that question, but I do remember my colleague the Minister for Revenue and Expenditure mentioning in the other House that there are certain allowances which escape income-tax merely because of the construction of the income-tax law, and Government is seeking to amend the law in that respect.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In relation to the answer to (a), in view of the fact that a summary has appeared in the Press today about this matter, will the

information be made available to the Members here in some suitable form?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Yes, Sir. We thought we could get it printed, and we wanted to present it to the hon. Members in a decent form, but I have found it rather difficult to get the Press to co-operate. So, we have made cyclostyled copies, and it is being distributed.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: In answer to (a) the hon. Minister has stated that Chambers of Commerce were not asked to submit certain information. Since individual firms were asked to submit the information, have there been cases of firms which have not supplied the information, and, if so, who are they?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am unable to answer that question with any precision. What we have now to go upon is the list of firms which had supplied the information to the Reserve Bank in 1948. According to that number we find that about 300 firms have not sent the information asked for. But on scrutiny I found that very many of these firms which have been categorised by the Reserve Bank have only got a juridical personality; they have no physical existence, because they do not employ any one. There has been quite a number, and at the moment I have not got any powers to compel those firms to furnish the information that has been asked for. As I said, the Collection of Statistics Bill, if it is passed, will give me all the authority necessary.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I know how many firms were actually asked to send replies and how many replies have been received?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The information will be contained in the circular that we propose to send out. There were about 1,060, and some of them did not contain information which we could make use of.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Is the Government aware that in some cases British firms are appointing Indians as directors

without any power, only with the object of making their firms look a little more swadeshi?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Indians are so bad, what can they do?

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government has received any memorandum from Indian employees of foreign firms?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: We have been receiving memoranda galore.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What has the Government been doing with them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Treating them with proper respect.

EXPORT OF COTTON TEXTILES TO CEYLON

*217. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the yardage of cotton textiles which Ceylon imported from India during the year 1951;

(b) whether such imports increased or decreased during the year 1952; and

(c) if the imports showed decline, the reasons therefor and what steps Government have taken to secure the increase of such imports by Ceylon?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) and (b). Ceylon imported 37 million yards of cotton piecegoods in 1951 and 47 million yards in 1952.

(c) Does not arise.

HAND-MADE PAPER

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

(a) what has been the production of hand-made paper during the last three years in the country?