

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, in respect of machinery and such other purchases, our requirements are generally circularised and we buy in the most favourable and cheapest markets. If the Soviet market appears to be favourable to us, we shall certainly go there.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: The question is whether the Government is going to approach the Soviet Government to find out what kind of goods they would be able to supply and on what terms?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: I am asking what the Government is going to do. May we know whether they are going to approach the Soviet Government or not?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Have they found out what the terms are on which the Soviet Government will be able to supply the machinery required?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The statement made at this Conference was of a general nature. The delegates of each country were requested to make general statements. I am quite sure the hon. Member will appreciate that this was not anything in the nature of a bilateral agreement. This was a Conference where the Soviet delegate also gave expression to his own views in the matter.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: As the hon. Minister himself was present at the Conference.....

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, my hon. friend is wrong. I was present not at this Conference but at an earlier Conference. Some other delegates attended this Conference

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The answer of the hon. Minister was that if the terms were favourable, they would be able to buy from Russia. My question was

whether they had found out that the terms were favourable or not.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: So far as Government purchases are concerned, Government always purchase from wherever the terms are favourable. We have not branded out Soviet Russia from our consideration. It is not a question of a particular item being there or not. Regarding private trade, as I had occasion to tell this House earlier, our licences are open for imports from all the countries including Soviet Russia. If any importer wants to import from Soviet Russia we do not stop him. During the last three years they have always been open.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Can the Soviet Government have showrooms of capital goods and machinery in this country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think so. It is quite a legitimate activity. We would welcome that.

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: (*In Malayalam*) †[May I know, Sir, whether Government have noted newspaper reports of the offer made by the Soviet representative at the Manila Conference proposing to supply us with machinery in barter for rubber and copra?]

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR (*In Kanada*) †[I have not. If notice is given I will look into it.]

INDIANS IN BHUTAN

*363. SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to cases of ill-treatment and injustice meted out to some Indian nationals in Bhutan territory; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter in the light of articles 7 of the Treaty of

†English translation.

8th August, 1949 between India and Bhutan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) Some representations to this effect have been received but on enquiry they were found to be baseless.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Sir, in view of the fact that such cases have been reported to me, and I have also informed the Political Officer in Bhutan, may I request our Prime Minister to be kind enough to enquire about it and take necessary steps?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Most certainly. If the hon. Lady Member will give us any particulars, we will enquire into them.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know whether the people of Bhutan, especially on the borders, are discontented against the Administration?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is a question about another country's Administration and whether the people there are discontented.

*364. [*The questioner (Shri D. Narayan) was absent.*]

MASSACRE OF INDIAN MERCHANTS IN BURMA

*365. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that merchants of Indian nationality were recently massacred in Burma by the Chinese Nationalist guerillas;

(b) whether some merchants of Indian nationality were also plundered by the same guerillas; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what action

Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) to (c). According to a press report and the representation made to the Indian Embassy, Rangoon, one Indian was killed, another injured and some Indian merchants were robbed by the Chinese Nationalist guerillas at Muse, a frontier town. The matter is under enquiry.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: When did the Government address the Burma Government in this connection?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: As soon as the representation was received.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government issued reminder to the Burma Government? Are they trying to get information on this point? There are varied reports; in one paper it was said that five people were killed, and in another it was said that seven were killed and so on. Will Government see that definite information is got from the Burma Government?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The Government is all the time trying to get information—our Embassy there—but this is a matter in which the enemies of the Burma Government have been active.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: But these incidents took place on the Burma border.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Hon. Members will realise that the Burma Government is dealing not only with insurgents but also with KMT troops on the borders. This is alleged to have been done by the enemies of the Burma Government.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May we know, Sir, with whom this matter has been taken up by the Government of India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It cannot be taken up with anybody, except that our agent went and discussed