

REOPENING OF TEA GARDENS

•719. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the 42 tea gardens which have been reopened are Indian owned and how many are British owned; and

(b) how many workers in these gardens are working (i) full time; and (ii) only part time?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) According to information available of the 42 tea gardens reopened by 17th April 1953, 14 gardens were British owned and 28 Indian owned. Since then 24 more gardens have reopened.

(b) Government have no information.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How is it, Sir, that still the Government have no information on this matter on which questions were asked on a previous occasion?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, the question itself is of that nature. The question is: How many are working full-time and how many part-time? There appears to have been some difficulty in compiling the information.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Have Government any information as to the number of labourers who have been taken back in these reopened gardens?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to find that.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know, Sir, the total number of workers that were working in these gardens before they were closed?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have no ready figures at the moment regarding the total number of workers. If a separate question is tabled on the number of labourers. I will answer it.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Are the Government aware that in some of these reopened gardens at least, the employers are resorting to three or four days work in a week instead of the normal six days work?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is likely. However, I will And that out.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Sir, I would like to know if the hon. Minister who knows much about the Hindustan motor, will kindly let us know—this is my question—what steps he has taken to ascertain as to how many workers were thrown unemployed and how many of them were taken back since the gardens had been opened?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I shall find that and let the hon. Member know.

SHRI B. RATH: Is the Government aware of the fact that in some of the gardens the management is resorting to send away the workers under duress and about 900 workers have been sent back to Orissa recently?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I shall enquire into the matter.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN ASSAM

*720. DR. S. K. BHUYAN: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of community projects taken up in the State of Assam, and the areas where each project is in operation; and

(b) the progress made so far in each of the above community projects and the expenditure incurred in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Two projects in Cachar and Darrang Districts and two development blocks in Garo Hills-Goalpara and Golaghat-Mikir Hills area.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 212.]

DR. S. K. BHUYAN: May I know, "Sir, to what extent the enthusiasm of the public including students and teachers has been roused in the matter of working out these projects?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: In this area, Sir, the people have evinced great interest. They have built in one area 24½ miles of new roads and in respect of Garo project they have constructed 154 miles of village roads and two timber bridges. That is all with the co-operation of the people.

DR. S. K. BHUYAN: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the progress made in these four community projects, Government is contemplating to extend them to other areas?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, the Government is already having a programme of having other blocks—45 blocks—and Assam also will have some more blocks in the area.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: It is reported that Mr. Dey mentioned that one-third of the community projects are hopeless. How many of the Assam projects are included in that one-third?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is not that one-third are hopeless. But 10 per cent, are not working properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether the Assam projects are included in that 10 per cent,

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: No. They are *not* included.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, on what basis does he say that the Assam projects are not included in *these* ten per cent.?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The Assam projects are working properly. It is not that they are not working properly.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether the expansion of these projects depends on the American loans and aids?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Mr. Kakkilaya.

EXPORT OF SHELLAC STICK LAC AND SEED LAC

•721. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the names of firms in India which exported shellac, stick lac and seed lac and the countries to which they exported these commodities with their quantity and value during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Hon. Member's attention is drawn to pages 12 to 17 in the Directory of Exporters of Indian Produce and Manufacturers, Part VIII published by the Manager of Publications, New Delhi which contains the names of firms which export shellac, stick lac and seed lac. As regards the countries to which they exported these commodities with their quantity and value, the information is not available as export statistics are not compiled with reference to individual exporters. However, a statement showing the exports of these commodities from India to various countries giving the quantity and value is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 213.]

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is it a fact, Sir, that stocks of these different varieties of lac have accumulated and because of that the industry is in a very serious crisis?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, there has been a certain amount of distress in the industry. That we know. But so far as the exports are concerned, they have been steady and roundabout 26,000 tons on the average.