

(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.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Are the Government aware that but for the absence of the consumption of lac product here, the lac industries are on the sweet-will of the foreign countries?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. That is partly a fact. So far as the internal consumption of lac is concerned, the opportunities for use are limited. That is a fact. But the opportunities are also very limited for the expansion of the existing sources of consumption.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Do the Government propose to open such industries here which can consume more and more of lac products and thereby reduce exports?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR* Government do not propose to start themselves.

PANDIT S. DUBE: Is it a fact that India has got the monopoly of production of lac?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should not think so. There are one or two other countries also. Siam is one of them.

Pandit S. DUBE: Does the Government consider it advisable to export seed lac from India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, that is a matter of controversy. It has been proposed to us that the raw material need not be exported, but on a balance we have not thought it fit to put a complete ban on the export.

PANDIT S. DUBE: I did not ask about raw shellac. I asked about seed shellac.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Seed shellac is the raw material for shellac production.

PANDIT S. DUBE: Am I to understand that seed shellac is turned into commercial lac in foreign countries?"

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. It is: the intermediary product between raw material and manufactured product *i.e.*, shellac.

PANDIT S. DUBE: Is it a fact that the foreign countries use seed lac for producing lac in their own countries?"

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is very likely.

SUM S. N. MAZUMDAR: Are Government aware that due to the export of seed lac, the export of commercial lac from India has fallen?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Due to the refusal of the other countries to take commercial lac, we had to export seed lac. There is also difference of opinion about the advisability of exporting seed lac. For a little while we banned it. But we thought on balance it would be no use to the country to completely ban the export of seed lac.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the lac industry is completely under the control of foreigners?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The intermediaries are partly foreigners.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

ACCUMULATION OF IRON ORE IN ANDAMAN ISLAND

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

(a) whether there is a large quantity of iron ore lying idle in the Andaman Island; and

(b) whether Government propose to make use of that iron and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and