

PROF. G. RANGA: Are any efforts being made to develop inter-Asian trade either by developing contacts through all these conferences or through our own trade representatives or otherwise?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI:

As I said, it is a continuous progress. The amount of pressure behind it perhaps varies with the personality of the Ministry concerned and their knowledge. As I said, we are suffering from various handicaps with regard to personnel, etc. We do not look upon it purely as a matter of inter-Asian trade: we do want trade to develop with other countries of the world, and as much trade as possible with every country.

PROF. G. RANGA: Have we attempted to enter into bilateral trade agreements with all or most of the Asian countries with which we have trade relations?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, as I said, we have a lot of bilateral agreements. The trade agreements often-times remain pious wishes recorded on paper. So long as trade is in private hands, very much cannot be done. It is not a question of Government-to-Government trade. As I said, we have yet to develop a proper organisation at Governmental level which can influence trade to the extent that we consider desirable and necessary.

PROFIT EARNED BY FOREIGNERS FROM INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE

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

(a) what is the profit made by foreign enterprise in handling India's foreign trade in each year from 1948 onwards; and

(b) whether Government are considering the question of handling India's foreign trade (i) through any Government agency; or (ii) through any Indian firm or company?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) Information is not available.

(b) Certain aspects of this question are being reviewed by the State Trading Committee.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it the case that there are no foreign firms which are making profits by the sale of our goods to foreign markets?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Undoubtedly there are foreign firms here doing export trade.....

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The bulk of the trade.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI:but the point really is to assess what profits they make out of the foreign trade. What we know really is the amount that they remit from here to their country. The Reserve Bank keeps a check upon it. Information can be given in regard to remittances. But whether they cover profits or dividends or interest, or whether it is a mere question of disinvestment, is not a thing which we are able to separate.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the bulk of the foreign trade of India is carried away by foreign companies through commission agents, and that they take away the bulk of the profits?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That is the common superstition. I do not think it is really so. I do admit that they have a large portion of the trade, but I cannot say it is the bulk of the trade.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that they have more than 50 per cent. of our foreign trade?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I have never attempted any evaluation of the percentage. I do realise that a very large portion of the trade is in

foreign hands. There are circumstances that aid in the trade being canalised into their hands for the reason that they control shipping and they have agencies abroad which secure the business. It is our intention that we should discourage trade passing into foreign hands. I do not know if the hon. Member remembers that I made a very categorical policy statement, supported by Government generally, in the Associated Chambers of Commerce in December last that we do not want to encourage trading concerns belonging to foreign countries establishing themselves here.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: What active steps are taken to implement that policy statement?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The actual steps are matters of action, and of slow and deliberate pursuit of the policy. All that can be done in this regard without damaging the interests or the honour and reputation of India is being done.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the hon. Minister disclose what is the total amount of foreign trade done by these foreign firms?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That is precisely what I am not able to give, because we do not have any statistics based on trade done by foreign firms. Nor it is possible.

PROF. G. RANGA: At least, Sir, will an effort be made to study this question and then ascertain at least to an approximate extent the degree of control that these people have come to have over our foreign trade? My hon. friend said that it was a superstition. Now, are we to take it that, in the light of what he has himself said, the idea of superstition is itself only a matter of opinion and is not based upon facts?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have nothing to do with superstition.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Does not the hon. Minister think it desirable to assess what is the extent to which

foreign firms have a control over our foreign trade?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: As I said, it is being done, but evaluation in terms of percentage is an impossibility.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

***450. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS:** Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have produced any documentary films meant for children;

(b) if so, how many and on what subjects; and

(c) how many children's institutions have made use of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN): (a) No documentary films meant specially for children have so far been made. Proposals to adapt some of the documentary films produced by the Films Division to suit the needs of children as well as the production of films specially for children are under consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: May I know, Sir, at what stage of consideration it is?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: So far, the proposal that is under the active consideration of Government is to produce about four films in a year and to purchase two other films from foreign sources.

BAN ON IMPORT OF INDIAN FILMS INTO PAKISTAN

***451. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether there is any ban on the import of Indian films into Pakistan?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): Government are not aware of any such ban. "Exposed