

Slovakia which, I suppose, is a country my hon. friend would consider to be within the Iron Curtain or whatever it is.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Not Iron Curtain, but Peoples' Curtain.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: There are also certain difficulties in regard to the transport of mica for which India is not responsible. I do happen to know that once the Czecho-slovakian authorities who got mica from us had to face considerable difficulties in transporting this mica. So far as we are concerned, we are free to export mica to any country that wants it. We are not bound to stop its export to any country simply because somebody tells us not to do it, whoever it may be.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: If the Government of Hungary or the Government of any of those distant democracies whom the hon. Minister has called the Iron Curtain want our mica—we call it Peoples' Curtain—will the Government include mica also as one of the items of export?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it the policy of the Government to call these countries as countries within the Iron Curtain?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not the Government's policy.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether the hon. Minister was speaking on behalf of the Government?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Definitely. I have no other function here.

IMPORT OF BURMA TEAK

*456. SHRI K. C. GEORGE (on behalf of SHRI E. K. IMMCHIBAVA): Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much of Burma teak and of what value was imported during

the years 1951 and 1952 for ship building in India; and

(b) whether teak from the forests of Malabar, Travancore-Cochin, Mysore and Coorg on the West Coast of Madras is not suitable for the purpose; if not, why not?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) 270 tons valued at Rs. 270,000 in 1951, and 330 tons valued at Rs. 312,500 in 1952.

(b) The Shipyard is trying out certain varieties of wood, including teak from the West Coast of Madras, as a experimental measure to see if they can be used in place of Burma teak.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know how this teak is being imported into India—whether it is on a contract basis or otherwise?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have not got the information, but I presume that it should be on the basis of orders placed on the exporting firms there. I do not have specific information on the point.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: How does the question come under the Ministry of Production? It is rather confusing.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It is for shipbuilding. That is why it comes under this Ministry.

MEMORIAL FOR AN INDIAN AMBASSADOR

*457. SHEIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorial is proposed to be erected for the late Indian Ambassador who died in Cairo; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether it is the usual practice of the Government of India to erect memorials for Indian Ambassadors who die abroad?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) No;