

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it a fact that this industry is facing difficulties due to the importation of panel pins from Japan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks if it has to face competition from Japan.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The position really is that this industry is not very well organised and we find great difficulty in even obtaining information from these units about their production. Therefore, there is shortage of these pins and it has to be made up by imports. Certainly some imports have come from Japan; but when the industry is not organised and the consumer needs these things, naturally, the imports have to come. But what we have done is to restrict the imports. For instance, for the current half-year about 50 per cent. of last year's quota has been allowed. So there is room for the indigenous industry to fill up the balance.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is there an organisation called the All-India Panel Pins Manufacturers' Association?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Yes, there is such an organisation. But apparently it is not working very well. For that reason we cannot get even information of what is produced by certain concerns.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: May I point out, Sir, that many Members do not know what is meant by a panel pin?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: If the House allows it, I may take it into my confidence and say that I myself found the same difficulty when this question came up. But subsequently I learnt that it is an ordinary wire nail with a very short head. Some of the panel pins have bevelled heads and others have plain heads and the size of the pin is usually an inch or less.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: What is it used for?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I suppose, for which all pins are used.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT

***141. SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have entered into a trade agreement with the Hungarian Government;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement; and

(c) the articles with their quantities and value covered by the agreement?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) to (c). I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the letters exchanged between the Government of India and the Legation of the Hungarian Peoples' Republic on 22nd November, 1952 regarding our Current Trade arrangements with Hungary, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: What is the reason for not fixing the quantities to be exported from here or the quantities to be imported into this country?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: For the mere reason that we have by experience found that quantitative limits fixed are not at all reached because the trade is largely in private hands so far as this country is concerned. We have never reached the quantitative limit that has been agreed upon on previous occasions. Therefore it was felt, if we leave it to the trade that will do. Hon. Members will find that in spite of the fact that we had trade arrangements with this country, our imports in 1951 and 1952 have exceeded 20 lakhs where exports to that country have been in the region of 11 lakhs in 1951 and 3 lakhs in 1952. That is the reason why no quantitative limits were imposed.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Why is mica not included in this agreement, especially as mica is facing depression, I mean Gudur taluka mica?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am afraid the hon. Member has not looked into the list.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Sir, may I know if mica is a strategic war material?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We do not know, we are not interested in wars.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Sir, I have seen the list, and mica is not included in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says he has looked into the list and does not find mica.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Well, I am informed the other way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will verify it.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

*142. SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the trade agreement between India and Czechoslovakia expired; and

(b) whether any negotiations are being conducted for a new trade agreement or for extending the old one?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) The last trade agreement expired on the 31st March 1951.

(b) Negotiations are in progress for the conclusion of a fresh trade arrangement between the two countries.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: What is the reason for this delay of two years?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: In matters of trade agreements of this nature, negotiations go on; but trade does not stop; it goes on in spite of the fact that there is no trade agreement. For instance, there is no trade agreement with the U.S.A. but still the trade is going on. So also, with France there is no trade agreement. The Indo-British trade agreement of 1939 lapsed to all interests and purposes long ago but we are still having the trade with U.K. So trade agreement is not necessary for the trade to go on. Therefore there is no immediate necessity and so the negotiations take much time to come to a conclusion. In the matter of trade agreements, as the hon. Member understands, there are two parties to the agreement and apparently in this instance the views of the two parties have not met in this matter.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Regarding the trade agreement which is under negotiations now, for what period is it being negotiated?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I can only answer that question when the agreement is finalised.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: If trade is going on even without any trade agreement.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What is the term proposed by Government for this trade agreement which is under negotiation?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: If I could disclose the terms of the agreement I can ask my hon. friend to continue the negotiations instead and I need not do it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Sir, that is no answer.