

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is, for the negotiations now going on, what is the period proposed?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Yes, Sir. I ask, what is the period which Government proposes for which the trade agreement which they are negotiating will be valid?

PROF. G. RANGA: That will be one of the points of the negotiations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think he can give you this information.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What are the articles imported from this country?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: If a question is tabled, I will refer the hon. Member to the proper quarters to get the information.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Pardon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, if notice is given, he will refer to the proper Department to get the information.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Do our Government propose to ask Czechoslovakia to take our mica and tea?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That again is part of the negotiations.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: All these commodities are part of the negotiations and when the agreement is finalised I will tell the hon. Member what all commodities are there in the agreement.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: By what time does the hon. Minister hope to complete this agreement?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: As I have said, there are two parties to any agreement and it is not entirely in my hands.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will you take another two years?

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SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It all depends.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: In view of the fact that the trade is going on even without the agreement, will Government consider the question of dropping these present negotiations and let the trade go on?

(No answer.) MR.

CHAIRMAN: Next question.

TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION

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

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to conclude long term trade agreements with the People's Republic of China or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and what are the articles, their quantities and value involved?

. THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: May I know if Government has taken any steps to have long-term agreements with the Soviet Union or the People's Republic of China especially in view of the fact that there is difficulty facing us in regard to our tea and mica and other things?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Our Embassies have got their Trade Attaches and constantly we are getting reports from them. If there are possibilities of our sending more of our goods there and the respective Government is willing to come to trade arrangements with us, surely Sir, we would come to some arrangements. The hon. Member must also realise

that whereas trade in this country is in the hands of private enterprise, the only party that is to determine the quantum of trade on the other side happens to be the Government, and in a matter where the Government is directly in the trade it is for that Government to say whether they will have any trade agreement or not.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: In view of the large planning and projects that we are undertaking in the matter of hydro-electric development and steel etc., did Government approach the Soviet Union to see if they could supply any of the things we need and at what rate they

MR. CHAIRMAN: A suggestion for action.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: No, Sir. I am only asking for information, as to whether they have approached the Soviet Government to find out if they could supply the machinery etc. required for our hydro-electric schemes, iron and steel plants etc.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: What happens in these cases is, when the Government is interested in a particular project like the iron and steel project, we naturally call for some consultants and when one scheme fails or does not come through, other countries come in and ask us, "We are interested. Will you discuss it with us." If Soviet Russia or China has any facilities to offer and the Embassies here communicate it to us, naturally we will explore all possibilities of utilising this aid.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is the Government aware of the news item

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: One minute more, Sir, according to this clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BARTER DEALS WITH PAKISTAN

*144. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a recent report in the press that Pakistan are willing to consider barter deals;

(b) if the report is correct whether Government have made any counterproposals; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to procure cotton from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) and (b). Latest advices indicate the Pakistan has cancelled her earlier announcement of 3rd February 1953, regarding barter deals.

(c) Imports of cotton are not made on Government account. Licences are issued for import of cotton from soft currency areas including Pakistan.

COMPILATION OF AN ESTABLISHMENT LIST OF A.I.R.

*145. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether an establishment list of the All India Radio has been compiled; and

(b) how many persons holding lower posts substantively but officiating against higher posts have so far been confirmed in the higher posts?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information is being compiled and will be placed on the Table of the Council in due course.