

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We feel that it would be more satisfactory and it is from the point of view of consumers' interests that we are bringing forward this legislation.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Does this mean that you are completely doing away with Coffee Board?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next question relates to Coffee Board.

CONSTITUTION OF THE INDIAN COFFEE BOARD

*560. SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: "Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Coffee Board was constituted and who are its members;

fb) how many of them are elected by the respective planters' associations and how many of them are nominated by the respective Governments;

(c) what is the total annual income and expenditure of the Board and "what are its sources of income, and

id) whether it is a fact that the budget of the Board submitted to Government in the month of May 1952 was finally sanctioned in December of the same year?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). The Coffee Board was constituted in December, 1940. A statement showing the present members of the Board together with the nominating authorities is laid on the Table of the Council. /See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 162.J

(c) The average annual income is estimated to be Rs. 4,38,000 and expenditure Rs. 4,15,000. The main sources of income of the Board are (i) customs duty levied at the rate of Re. 1 per cwt. of coffee and (ii) excise duty levied at the rate of Re. 1 per cwt. of coffee.

(d) Yes, Sir.

34 C.S.D.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it a fact that Government are proposing to abolish the Board because the Board is not bringing down the prices as per the instructions of the Ministry and that legal opinion is being sought in the matter?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No. Sir. It is not intended to abolish the Coffee Board. Under the amending Bill it is proposed to change the method of according individual representation by name to various associations on the Board, and, as I said, a moment earlier, it is also proposed to appoint a Chairman to the Board instead of his being elected from amongst the members. It is also proposed to appoint a Vice-Chairman. These are the principal changes.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it true that the entire constitution of the Board will be changed and that every member will be nominated in future as against elected representatives as in the case of the present Board?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, all members would be nominated by Government.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Does it mean that Government are going to take entire control of the industry?

' SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I thought, Sir, that that would be by delegated authority and the nominations will be made by Government. As I said, it will only be a change in the system of nomination and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be appointed by Government.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it going to safeguard the interests of the growers?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Surely, we shall have representatives of growers.

9 A.M.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is that the principle of democracy that Government are going to nominate all members of the Board now—when till now they were being elected—who

will dance to the tune of Government? Will they work in the interest of growers?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We had been a little more democratic than advisable or necessary and the working of this has shown that it is in the best interests of both the growers and the consumers, and that is why we thought we will take a little more power than less.

PROF. G. RANGA: Are we to understand that these people will be nominated after consulting the wishes of the concerned organisations of the different sections of the industry?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That is so.

PROF. G. RANGA: Then why do you not say so?

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it not a fact that the Board has been working satisfactorily for 13 years looking after the interests of both consumers and growers?

(No reply.)

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: In the statement Shri B. S. Puttuswamy is shown as one of the members of the Board. May I know if he is an officer of the Mysore Government, and if so, whether Government considers it in order that an officer of Government should represent labour on the Board.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I shall find out the facts. But if he is there we presume it is in order.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Is it in order for a Government officer to represent labour organisations, and if so, have the Government consulted the organisations concerned?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I shall find out. Presumably it has been done.

PROF. G. RANGA: Why do you presume things?

CLOSURE OF THE MOTOR CAR ASSEMBLY FACTORY AT ENNORE

*561. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND-INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the closure of a Motor Car Assembly Factory at Ennore in Madras;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the closing down of the said factory;

(c) what is the number of labourers who are affected; and

(d) how this closure of the factory affects the supply position of Austin Cars in India?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The factory was closed down for 10 days only.

(b) Uneconomic production due to the reported 'go-slow' policy of labour.

(c) 234.

(d) Presumably the availability of Austin Cars will be limited. I should add that after this draft was prepared, we have now found that the supply position of Austin Cars will not, in any manner, be materially affected, because the strike has ended after ten days.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is the hon. Minister aware of the statement of the Managing Director that the closure was due to the bad import policy of the Government of India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: My information does not show that.

*562. [Postponed.]

DELEGATION SENT TO JAPAN TO STUDY COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*563. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the delegation to study cottage industries was sent to Japan;

(b) what was the expenditure incurred on this delegation;