

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
(SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) About Rs. 50 lakhs annually.

(d) Yes.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know, Sir, if the tea export trade has experienced any resistance since our withdrawal from the International Board, especially from the American blenders of tea who more or less control the Board ? And if so, what steps have been taken in this regard ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : No, Sir. We are not aware of any such resistance.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Is it not a fact that the International Tea Expansion Board did not seriously try to expand the market for Indian tea in other countries ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : In view of the fact that we were the major contributors to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs—the largest share in the expansion of the trade—and since we thought that the results achieved were not commensurate with our contribution, we have decided to withdraw.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact, Sir, that the blenders of America used to more or less use these funds that we kept at the disposal of the International Board for the development of the blended tea in America which used the great proportion of Indian tea ? And if so, do the Government not expect resistance from them in regard to the export of our tea and if that is a fact, whether they are taking adequate steps to see that our tea gets enough sales in America ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The idea, Sir, of the basis of this withdrawal from the Tea Board is precisely what the hon. Member intends. It is precisely to expand and do more effectively the work which the earlier Board was doing.

PROF. G. RANGA : Have Government created any other institution or board or committee in order to further the marketing of our tea in the place of this International Tea Expansion Board ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We are having that matter actively under our consideration. Our present arrangements with that Board are that we continue to contribute half the amount.

PROF. G. RANGA : What about the English market ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : It is perfectly all right.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Would the hon. Minister let us know what quantity of Indian tea was being used by American blenders and if he foresees any other alternate market, if the blenders refuse to take our tea ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Regarding the precise quantity used by the American blenders, I should like to have some notice. But till now, I can assure my hon. friend, on account of our decision to withdraw from the International Board there has not been any adverse effect on our exports of tea.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Are we to understand that so long as any alternative organisation is not built up—say in U. K. and U. S. A.—we are still using the agency of the International Board ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : That is precisely so for the next year during which we are contributing half the amount. We used to contribute roughly round about 50 lakhs and our contribution for the present year will be half of that. That is supposed to be a period of transition. By next year we will have set up our own machinery.

VISIT TO SIKKIM

*149. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : (a) Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased

to state whether it is a fact that Indian nationals going to Sikkim are required to sign a register and furnish certain particulars before crossing the border outpost ?

(b) Is it a fact that recently in some cases intending visitors to Sikkim were required to secure permission in writing from the Political Agent before proceeding to Sikkim? If so, why ?

(c) Was this requirement as to the obtaining of such permission publicly notified for the information of the intending visitors to Sikkim?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA) : (a) Check-post officials maintain information about Indians and foreigners entering into or leaving Sikkim, Indian nationals are not required to sign any register.

(b) No.

(c) There is no such public notification, but some old notices can still be seen in some places. These state that foreigners cannot cross into certain areas near the frontiers of India without a special permit.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Has the Government made any detailed inquiry about this matter ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA : There is enough information on this matter, Sir.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : May I just explain it, Sir? Indians are not required to get permit but any Indian would go there and demand accommodation in dak bungalows. That probably is the reason for some misunderstanding—having to fill a particular form. They have taken the old permit form and indicated their requirements for the dak bungalows on it, because there is no other form or paper there. That perhaps causes some misunderstanding. But it is quite clear that Indians do not require any permit to go there.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Government do anything to remove this misunderstanding?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prime Minister's statement will remove the misunderstanding.

EXPENDITURE ON PLANNING COMMISSION

*150. SHRI B. C. GHOSE : (a) Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state the number of staff employed in the Planning Commission and the expenditure incurred on the Commission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 33.]

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the hon. Minister kindly say whether now that the Planning Commission has finished its work, it will be disbanded or continued?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : The work of the Planning Commission will have to be continued. The Planning Commission will have now to look to the implementation of the Plan.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : May I know, Sir, if any organisation for the implementation of the Plan will be set up at the Centre which will oversee the work in the States?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : There will be, Sir, a Committee—liaison officers—at the Centre who will look into the various schemes in the Plan which are being implemented.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : May I know, Sir, if that Committee will have power sufficient to influence the States and if they go wrong, to rectify them?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : Generally, Sir, it is also in the interest of the States to see that the programme of