

to come in from U. K. as also from other countries as the parties were entitled to on account of having applied earlier. Apart from that quantity, a decision in respect of which was taken now, 3 years later, we are not at all importing any type of cloth and even during the present licensing period, July-December, we are not importing even umbrella cloth and the other type which we used to import before.

EXPORT OF PLANTAINS AND BETEL LEAVES

*186. SHRI D. NARAYAN : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what quantities of plantains and betel leaves were exported to Pakistan during the last three years and during the eight months of the current year ;

(b) whether it is a fact that export of plantains and betel leaves to Pakistan from India have stopped for some months ; if so, for what reasons ;

(c) whether Government are aware that this stoppage has caused to the growers of plantains and betel leaves loss to the extent of a few crores ; and

(d) whether Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan, and if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Separate figures relating to our export of plantains are not available as they are included under the general head "fresh fruits" in official trade statistics.

As regards betel leaves the required information is available for periods subsequent to the 26th February 1951 and is given below :—

Period	Value
From 26th February 1951 to end of March 1952.	Rs. 2.38 crores.
From April 1952 to October 1952.	Rs. 76.5 lakhs.

(b) Exports have registered a steep decline since August 1952. the reason being that Pakistan's Open General Licence for imports from India having expired on the 7th August 1952, no import can now be made without a licence issued by that Government.

(c) Government have no information about the extent of monetary loss suffered by growers of plantains and betel leaves.

(d) The matter was discussed during the trade talks between India and Pakistan nearly four months ago.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Is the Government aware that the rates of plantains have gone down in Delhi and other places on account of this ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : It is likely, Sir,

SHRI D. NARAYAN : To what extent. Sir ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : As some hon. friends complain, not much.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Is Government going to give help to the plantain growers on account of this loss ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Sir, the principal remedy that was suggested to us was to persuade the Pakistan Government to take in the usual exports of plantains as well as betel leaves ; the other remedy proposed was— we used to import a small quantity of betel leaves to the tune of Rs. 6 lakhs, and, as a measure of retaliation— that we should ban that import. Sir, we have not found it advisable to have any measure of retaliation and, regarding the *pan* growers as such, I am afraid that there is very little on our side that we can do.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Sir, is the Government aware that the consumption of betel leaves is limited and, therefore, the farmers are suffering most on account of this ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, Sir Government are definitely aware that owing to the stoppage of our exports

of betel leaves and plantains to Pakistan—that is a step taken by the Pakistan Government—the growers have suffered, but, there is very little that we can do.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a Minister to make the people of other countries more betel eating minded ?

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Is the Government thinking of banning imports from Pakistan ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : No, Sir ; we have no intention of taking any retaliatory action. Of course, we always take action in the interests of the country but, in this specific issue we are not taking any retaliatory action.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : When Pakistan is not importing *pan* from India, is the Government not thinking of banning the *pan* going from East to West Pakistan through India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We went into that question but that was insignificant as compared with our exports and both for its effectiveness as also otherwise, we did not think such action to be good.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Much quantity of *pan* is going to West Pakistan from East Pakistan through Delhi.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Sir, I should like to have information from the hon. Member. If *pan* is attempted to be air-lifted from East to West Pakistan, we cannot prevent that.

FOREIGN FILM PRODUCERS IN INDIA

*187. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any foreign producers making films for foreign firms in India ;

(b) if the answer to part(a) be in the affirmative,

(i) what are the conditions on which these producers are allowed to produce such films ; and

(ii) whether reciprocal facilities are given to Indian producers by the countries to which those foreign producers belong ?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) No specific permission is required for the production of films.

(ii) There are no reciprocal arrangements.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Sir, what is the advantage that the Government gets in giving permission to foreign producers ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : Sir, I think the hon. Member has not understood the answer. There is no specific permission required for the production of any film in India.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : How many foreign films have been made in India since 1950 ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : I will not be able to give the films for 1952, but, since 1950, about 6 or 7 foreign firms have been given permission. Under the law, it is not necessary for them to ask permission from Government, but, they require certain facilities from Government and, therefore, they make an application to us as to whether we will be able to accord such facilities and such firms number about 7.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Which are those countries ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : They are Indonesia, Holland, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Is the Minister aware that the film " River," was shot in India ?