

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : The question does not arise. I don't think there is much chance of that being done there.

MANUFACTURE OF MACHINE TOOLS

*180. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an assurance was given by Government to the machine tool manufacturers that the Government Machine Tool Factory will not undertake the manufacture of certain types and sizes of machine tools but they will be left for manufacture by the private manufacturers ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the types and sizes of machine tools that are intended to be left for manufacture by the private manufacturers ; and

(c) whether all those types of machine tools are being manufactured at present by the private manufacturers ; if so, what is the quantity of the tools manufactured by such manufacturers during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) Yes. Copies of the minutes of the two meetings held on 19-9-1950 and 8-2-1952 in regard to this matter are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 47.]

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure 48.]

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Would the hon. Minister let us know if an assurance was given by him to the Machine Tool Manufacturers Association in Bangalore sometime in June or July and if not, whether he would contradict certain reports which appeared in the newspapers ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : The same assurance was given as the one that is embodied in the minutes of the proceedings that I have now placed on the

Table of the House. No fresh assurance was given, so far as I know.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : On going through the minutes, we find that, apart from the difference of opinion regarding the country's requirements of certain types of machine tools, the statement supplied to me shows that 7" lathes' production during 1950 to 1952 is 12, 16 and 31 whereas Government feel that the requirements of this type of lathes should be about 300 a year. In view of this are Government sure that with this reservation the country's needs would be adequately met by the private manufacturers ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : In regard to lathes of 7" and below, the country's requirements are being met. We do not know how many the Defence Ministry is taking, and we have not got figures, I am afraid, with regard to that.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : When considering the reservation of certain grades and types of machine tools, have the Government taken into consideration the quality of these machines produced by our manufacturers, and if so, are they satisfactory ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : It is also kept in mind. So far as lathes of 7" and below are concerned, there is no reason for Government to believe that the quality is wanting. But with regard to the manufacture of 8½" lathes, it is too early to say anything on the performance of private industries in this behalf.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Do Government intend to reserve certain grades of these machines even when they are in the planning or projected stage by the private manufacturers ? About lathes of 8½" in the minutes it is mentioned that plans and projects are ready. I want to know whether Government think that the present reservation is enough or do they consider that further reservation for the private manufacturers is necessary ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : The question arises only with regard to 8½" lathes. Government's information is that we

require about 600 lathes and the Government factory for Machine Tools at Jalahalli has programmed for 400 of this size. There is, therefore, still room left to the private industry. And so far, the private industry, according to the best of our information, has manufactured only one lathe. There seems to be some scope for the manufacturing of some 8½" lathes also by private industries.

*181 (Member absent, For answer vide column 1300 supra.)

Haj Pilgrims from India

*182. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Haj pilgrims from India have to pay travelling fares in Saudi Arabia at rates higher than what citizens of Saudi Arabia have to pay ;

(b) if so, what is the difference in the rates ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action for the removal of this discrimination ?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : Government have no information but have referred the matter to their Consul General at Jedda in Saudi Arabia. His reply is awaited. As soon as it is received, the matter will be examined.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is satisfied ? Very well.

PRICE OF ARECANUTS

*183. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Malabar regarding the low and uneconomic price of arecanuts ; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Some representations have been received.

(b) There is nothing much that Government can do in this matter as prices of arecanuts had risen in the past and are now coming down. Besides Government have not gone into the economics of arecanut production and have therefore no means of vouchsafing as to the correctness or otherwise of the statement that the prevailing price of arecanuts is uneconomic.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is there not a duty on arecanuts ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, a very heavy duty on imports. As the hon. Member himself knows, in 1947, as a result of our combined efforts we had a heavy duty.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is there any excise duty ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Excise duty ! I do not know, I have no idea at the moment.

PROF. G. RANGA : In view of the fact that this Government found it necessary at one time to listen to representations on behalf of this industry, and since this is a very important industry, especially in the West Coast, will Government agree to enquire into the economic condition of the growers of arecanuts to see if anything can be done to help them ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : According to our information, as regards the present or current prices, there has not been a depression. For instance, as against 85 for Calcutta in December 1951, in November 1952 the figure is 93. As against 44 for Palghat-Bangalore, the price is Rs. 32, and for Ceylon I find the price for December was 105 and in November 1952 it is 112. So we see no reason to think there is a depression in the prices.