

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 Jeddah 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.

(*Shri E. K. Imbichibava put a question in Malayalam.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Lakshmi Menon will please interpret it in English.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON : I could not hear the question properly.

(*Shri E. K. Imbichibava repeated the question in Malayalam.*)

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON : He asks, : Have the Government any arrangements for preventing the smuggling of arecanut from Pondicherry and other places into India ?

(*Shri D. P. Karmarkar replied in Kannada.*)

(*Laughter.*)

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : On a point of order. This is not fair. Although I understand what the hon. Minister said, I don't think it is fair. The hon. Minister knows English and also Hindi and he need not have taken recourse to Kannada, which I also can speak.

(*Shri E. K. Imbichibava again put a question in Malayalam.*)

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Sir, we could understand neither the question nor the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing very much is lost.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : But what was the answer of the hon. Minister ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We have no complaints about smuggling of arecanuts from Pondicherry.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know what is the need of this country, in respect of arecanut ? What is the consumption in the country ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : At the moment we have no exact figures of consumption ; and the figures of production are also likely to be defective. But Government thinks that there is sufficient to be consumed in the country.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is it necessary to regulate the import in relation with the home consumption of nuts ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Government have regulated it in the past and that was by imposing a deterrent import duty. Sometimes we have a feeling that we have been rather unfair to the consumers. As the hon. Member knows, the relative duties on arecanut now and pre-war is sometimes double or 400 to 500 per cent.

RUSSIAN FILMS

*184. SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of films produced in Soviet Russia that were permitted to be exhibited in India since 1950 ;

(b) the names of persons or firms who hold the distributing rights for the above pictures in this country ; and

(c) whether any attempt has been made to screen Indian films in Soviet Russia in order to interpret our country to the Soviet people ?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : (a) 64 Russian films were certified for public exhibition by the Central Board of Film Censors from 15th January 1951, when the Board was constituted, up to 30th November 1952.

(b) Information regarding the persons or firms holding distribution rights in these films is not available as they are not required to register with government.

(c) Yes, Sir, but the only suitable films exhibited in Russia have been those shown by our Embassy in Moscow in their premises.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN : How many films were banned ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the question ?