

DR. B. V. KESKAR : Sir, I think that information is kept in mind by those who send films outside the country for exhibition.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN : Sir, is the Government aware that Dr. P. Subbarayan, former Indian Ambassador to Indonesia protested to the Central Board of Film Censors that the film "Life of Lenin" is a distortion of truth and history and contains merely propaganda to glorify Stalin, and, what action has the Central Board of Film Censors taken on it ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : Yes, it is quite possible that the person named has protested to the Central Board of Film Censors, but, I would like to find out from the Board before answering.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN : Sir, will the Government think of a proposal to see that the imported foreign films should go to the Foreign Affairs Department first and then should go to the Central Board of Film Censors ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : That is a suggestion for action.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Sir, in case of Russian films what happens to the box office receipts ? Do they go to Russia ? How ?

DR. B. V. KESKAR : The money goes to the distributors first and I do not know where it goes from there.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Sir, is it a fact that almost all the Soviet films that have been exhibited in the country contain propaganda in favour of the Communist Party and glorify only Stalin and contain very little art or culture ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Propaganda again.

IMPORT OF COTTON TEXTILES

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

(a) whether any cotton textiles were imported from Britain during the last two years ;

(b) if so, what amount of cloth and yarn were imported in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952 ;

(c) what varieties of cloth were imported ;

(d) whether it is a fact that cotton yarn and manufactures, including 28 lakh square yards of woven mill goods were ordered from Britain during the first six months of 1952 ; and

(e) whether India still requires cotton cloth from outside ; if so, why ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a), (b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 49.]

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. Such varieties of yarn and cloth as are either not produced or are produced only in insufficient quantities are imported from outside.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Sir, may I know how much cloth was sent to England during the last 8 months for printing ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Sir, I have no idea about the exact amount of export but, I think we have exported some quantities.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : He wanted to know how much cloth has been exported for printing.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : How much cloth was exported during the last 8 months and brought back after printing ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I am happy I am able to clear up. The hon. Member will find in the statement attached to this question that imports in 1950-51 amounted to Rs. 26,55,000 and odd and in 1951-52 to Rs. 47 lakhs. We put cloth on the free list in 1949 and certain cases remained undisposed for 2 1/2 years and it was about 5 or 6 months ago, we decided to allow cloth

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