

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Does the Government contemplate buying the stocks of handloom cloth and export them at subsidised rates ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We purchase handloom cloth to the extent of our requirements, but there is no idea of subsidising exports at the moment.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is it a fact that a Government officer has been sent abroad to explore the possibility of exporting handloom cloth ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : An officer of the Textile Commissioner's Office in Bombay has been sent abroad, but to my knowledge he has not yet returned.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Does the Government propose to get calendering machines to improve the quality of handloom cloth ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I do not think we are purchasing any calendering machines to improve handloom cloth. We expect the handloom industry itself to purchase these.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Have the Government got any scheme for affording relief to these handloom weavers ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : That is our intention. As hon. Members are aware, the mills have been asked to curtail their production in respect of *dhoties* by 40% with a view to seeing that handlooms increase their production.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Does the Government contemplate giving any relief to the unemployed weavers ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : There has not been any question of giving relief to the weavers as such, but the Government have spent about Rs. 9 lakhs during the last two years to help the handloom industry. I would go further and say that the Government are contemplating imposing a cess of three

pies per yard on mill-made cloth, and the bulk of the amount realised by the cess is to be utilised on fostering the development of the handloom industry.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Are the Government purchasing all their requirements of cloth from the handloom industry ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : As I said earlier, we have been purchasing from them to the extent that we require, but I have not the figures at the moment.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it a fact that the Madras Government has been giving some relief to the handloom weavers in that State ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should like to have notice of that question. I am not sure whether the Government of Madras have done anything by way of specific relief.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : May I know how many handlooms have remained idle during the last six months ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : There has been a phenomenal increase in the number of handlooms in the country during the many years. The number of handlooms in undivided India in 1940 was 22 lakhs. Now it is 28 lakhs. It is not surprising, therefore, that some of the handlooms are idle.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY PLANNING COMMISSION

*174. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what are the Committees appointed by the Planning Commission to give effect to India's Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount spent so far on those Committees and also on the Planning Commission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Council.

(b) So far an amount of Rs. 73,920 has been spent in connection with these Committees and an amount of Rs. 25,09,501 has been spent on the Planning Commission as a whole.

Statement showing Committees appointed by the Planning Commission

1. Planning Commission Advisory Board.

2. Panels on :—

- (1) Industry
- (2) Transport
- (3) Commerce
- (4) Technical Consultants
- (5) Agriculture
- (6) Cottage Industries
- (7) Coal and Minerals
- (8) Health Programmes
- (9) Education Programmes
- (10) Housing
- (11) Social Welfare.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : How are these Committees formed ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : These Committees are generally formed by the Planning Commission who appoint persons of outstanding ability and special knowledge in the branches for which these Committees are formed. Where there are officials of the States, they are, of course, appointed in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Are there Implementing Committees ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : The Implementing Committees have not yet been formed. The Committees are under consideration.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA : What will be the annual recurring expenditure on these Committees when they are appointed ?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI : We will know it when they are formed.

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF TEA

*175. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the value and quantity of tea that was imported into and exported from India each year during the last 3 years; and

(b) the names of the countries (i) from which tea was imported. and (ii) to which it was exported each year during the same period ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 46.]

Since the information is short, I would like to inform the House that the imports were :

In 1949-50 . 0.1 million lbs.

In 1950-51 . 0.5 „

In 1951-52 . 0.7 „

As regards exports, the figures were :

In 1949-50 . 441.5 million lbs.

In 1950-51 . 439.2 „

In 1951-52 . 425.5 „

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is it because that our own production is insufficient for our needs that imports were allowed ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The imports were allowed for purposes of blending. As my hon. friend will see, the imports were only 0.7 million lbs. in 1951-52 as against 425.5 million lbs. of exports.

DR. P. C. MITRA : Is it a fact that green tea is exported from India and after undergoing some processes in foreign countries is imported back into India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : No, Sir. We produce some green tea for internal consumption.