

SHRI D. D. ITALIA : May I know whether the target fixed for every year is achieved ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Yes, Sir.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Will Government give us an assurance that before orders are placed with foreign ships, they will see that all the Indian ships are fully engaged and not kept idle ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Certainly.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know what is the share of the tonnage of foreign trade carried by Indian bottoms during the last one year ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It is 7.5 per cent.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Foreign trade, or coastal trade ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The hon. Member wanted information regarding foreign trade. Coastal trade is 100 per cent. ours.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Does this show an appreciable increase over the pre-war figure ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Certainly. It was less than 3 per cent. It has risen to 7 per cent.

#### IMPORT OF APPLES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

\*203. SHRI C. L. VARMA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that apples are imported into India from some foreign countries; if so, from which countries and in what quantities ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the import of foreign apples has hit hard the economy of the apple growing areas like Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take for the protection of the apple growers in Himachal Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Dr. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) Yes, in small lots, generally from soft currency countries.

(b) A statement showing the prices of indigenous and Australian apples is placed on the Table of the House. It will reveal that the economy of apple growing areas does not seem to have been very seriously affected owing to imports at any rate. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 53.]

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI C. L. VARMA : May I know what is the total requirement of apples for India ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I have no figures.

SHRI C. L. VARMA : May I know what is the production Statewise ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am afraid I have no figures. The question related to imports.

SHRI C. L. VARMA : May I know if Government have ever thought of encouraging this industry, and, if so, with what result ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes, that is our intention.

SHRI C. L. VARMA : Will the Government discourage the import of apples from foreign countries and thus encourage the apple industry in India and also save foreign currency ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Import has almost been stopped, especially from the dollar areas, and very small quantities are imported even from the sterling areas ; and even there the prices of such imported apples are so high that there is hardly any incentive for large lots being brought into the country.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Are any transport facilities provided for those apple growing areas which suffer owing to lack of such facilities ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am afraid it will be the concern of the Railway Minister. We are trying to press the Railway Ministry in this matter as much as possible.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : In view of the fact that cold storage is essential for this industry, will the hon. Minister tell us whether the Government has provided any cold storage facilities in important centres ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am in a position to say that some time back we took steps in this matter and at the present time the whole matter is being taken up so seriously by both the trade as well as the State Governments that not much attention is necessary on the part of the Centre.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Is there any import from Pakistan to India ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : For the present at any rate, no; nor even previously.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Are we to understand that apples are being imported because India cannot supply her own requirements ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I do not know the reason for the imports, but in any case the imports are very small.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : My question is : Cannot we do with our own apples ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : We are doing as much as possible with our own apples. (*Laughter.*)

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Then where is the need for importing foreign apples ?

SHRI V. S. SARWATE : Is it not the policy of Government that import restrictions are not to be used for the purpose of granting protection to an industry ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am sure they are so used.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : In view of the difficulties in regard to transport, which have a very adverse effect especially on the fruit industry in the country, would the hon. Minister take up the matter more vigorously with the Transport Ministry and if he is not successful consider himself the question of giving all the help and assistance that may be necessary to the canning industry ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : My Ministry is perfectly conscious of the necessity of providing better transport facilities, and I can assure the hon. Member that every effort will be made in that direction.

#### RAIL LINK BETWEEN TINNEVELLY AND NAGERCOIL

\*204. SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rail link between Tinnevelly and Nagercoil has at any time been surveyed ;

(b) if so, the year in which such survey was conducted, and the estimated cost of the project ; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in executing the project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Docs not arise.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know the source of the information of the hon. Minister ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The usual sources of information.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : Is it not a fact that this rail link was surveyed in the year of grace 1912 ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : In the year 1926 a survey was undertaken between Palamcottah and Punnagudi and the Travancore Government objected to taking it up to Nagercoil, and this survey disclosed that the line would cost Rs. 22 lakhs.