

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know, Sir, whether there has been any conflict between the recommendations of the Merchant Navy Training Committee which was given effect to by establishing these institutions all over the country, between the effecting of those recommendations and the actual demands for skilled personnel turned out by this institution? If I may put it shortly, the Merchant Navy Committee estimated a certain amount of officers and skilled personnel necessary for the Merchant Navy and, on that basis, these institutions were started. I want to know from the Government if it is a fact that, after starting these institutions they have found that these institutions are turning out more men than are necessary for the Merchant Navy.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I understand the hon. Member aright, he means to say that the.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Supply exceeds the demand.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN :supply exceeds the demand. But, no such contingency exists.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Sir, I did not quite.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : To his knowledge, no such contingency has arisen yet.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is there a proposal for a Naval College to be started at Waltair ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is there a proposal to start a Naval College at Waltair ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : No, Sir.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

*202 SHRI D. D. ITALIA : Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to State

(a) how much volume of the pre-partition sea-borne trade was handled by ships of Indian companies, and how much by ships of foreign countries ; and

(b) (i) how much volume of the foreign trade is still handled by ships of non-Indian business organisation ; (ii) how much of this trade is handled by ships of United Kingdom and the United States of America respectively ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) and (b). The available statistics relating to the sea-borne trade of India do not indicate separately the quantity or value of the trade carried in ships of different nationalities. Separate figures are available only of the tonnages of ships of different countries which enter and are cleared at Indian ports. A statement showing the available information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 52.]

SHRI D. D. ITALIA : May I know what was the total volume of sea-borne trade prior to Independence, and what are the figures for the year ending 1951 ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The value of trade is not available with me. It is only the tonnage that enters and that is cleared at the Indian ports that is available. The information regarding value of trade may be available with the Minister for Commerce.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA : May I know what is the total tonnage of India which is handled, coastal as well as foreign ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It is 4,22,425 tons.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA : May I know whether any target for tonnage or for the number of merchant ships to be built each year has been fixed ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Yes, Sir. In the next five years at the Vizag Shipyard we have planned to build 18 to 20 ships.

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 ?