

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, S'r. We have facilitated the import of necessary machinery. They have recently applied for tariff protection, and there is no doubt that we shall give them necessary protection, all other things being equal.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is this cutting edge good enough to cut throats ?

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

COTTON TEXTILES FUND COMMITTEE

*2ii. SHRI V. K. DHAGE : (a) Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether there is a body called the Cotton Textiles Fund Committee ?

(b) If so, what are its functions, who are its members, and for how long has it been working ?

(c) Do Government propose to place on the Table of the Council a report on the working of this body since its inception ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 60.]

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : Are there any representatives of the Trade Union on the Textile Fund Committee ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I have got a list of members here but I am not sure whether it includes any Trade Union representatives.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE : There has been a sub-committee appointed by the Textile Fund Committee. May I know what the recommendations of that sub-committee have been ? That sub-committee has been appointed with regard to the quality of goods for export.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, Sir, it was found necessary for the quality

control scheme. But the Committee thought and the Government thought that till we had a buyer's market, not the seller's, we should not hasten about it. And now that there is a buyer's market growing, we are taking up the question seriously.

PRODUCTION OF SULPHUR

*2i2. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Raw Material Conference has, for the second half of the current year, allotted 30,000 long tons of sulphur to India out of a total allotment of 3,200,260 long tons of sulphur to 36 countries ;

(b) what was the world production of sulphur in 1951 ;

(c) what is the estimated world production of sulphur in 1952 ;

(i) what was the production of sulphur in India in 1951 ;

(e) what is the estimated production in India in 1952 ;

(f) what is India's deficiency in sulphur; and

(g) when India is likely to be self-sufficient in sulphur ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) I.M.C. allocation of sulphur to India in the second half of 1952 was 32,000 long tons.

(b) nearly 12 million tons.

(c) 12'6 million tons. (d)-

Nil.

(d) Nil.

(f) Minimum requirements of sulphur for essential purposes are estimated at 67,500 tons per annum and is likely to increase to about 90,000 tons within the next few years.

(g) There are no large natural resources of sulphur in India; the question of self-sufficiency does not arise

SHRI M. VALIULLA : In America and other countries there are projects to increase the production of sulphur. Are there such projects in India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : About sulphur I am not aware of any major project though there is an attempt to use pyrites wherever found. There are no immediate projects, so far as I can see, for the production of sulphur.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is the Government thinking of having projects of that kind ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I am aware, the Government are aware, that the production possibilities in the near future will be quite satisfactory. As I said earlier, at the moment I could not tell the hon. Member if and what projects are there for the immediate production of sulphur.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : The hon. Minister said that the world production of sulphur in 1951 was 12 million tons. Is Russia included in that ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice for that.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR : May I ask what steps have been taken to establish a plant for the production of sulphuric acid from gypsum ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should think so, Sir.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Any steps being taken in that direction ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. There are extensive deposits in Rajasthan. I understand that these deposits are being worked up for the Sindri Fertilizer Factory and Messrs. Fertilizers Chemical Ltd. are attempting to tap the deposits in Trichinopoly.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR : May I ask whether any action has been taken to establish any plant for the production of sulphuric acid from it ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We are trying to use both pyrites and gypsum

as far as they are available for relevant purposes. There are no schemes at the moment for manufacturing sulphur out of these.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : India has been allotted 30 thousand tons out of 32 lakh tons of sulphur available for distribution and the world production is 12 million tons. Why have they not been able to allot more to India?*

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Firstly because we do not require such a large quantity and secondly because it is not available to us for distribution. What the International Raw Material Conference did was that it took the available supply from all countries and made allocations in accordance with the requirements. Their allocations were satisfactory under the circumstances.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : I am referring to the distribution by the International Raw Material Conference and not our distribution in India. They have distributed 32 lakh tons of sulphur.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I am afraid I am not able to appreciate the question. If I may remind my hon. friend, I have already replied part (<z) of the question that the allocation of sulphur to India in the second half of 1952 was 32,000 long tons. This was against our requirements and that was quite satisfactory for the half year because we did not require more.

11 A. M.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : That question does not stop there. My question was whether it is a fact that the International Raw Material Conference has, for the second half of the current year, allotted 30,000 long tons of sulphur. Is it not a fact that the total allotment was 32 lakhs and out of it 30 thousands were given to India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I am afraid the figure of 32 lakhs is wrong. Anyway I shall find it out.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Why was not the answer given to us at the outset because I had given notice of it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question. Mr. Govinda Reddy.

PASSPORT SYSTEM BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*2i3. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

m (a) whether the passport system between India and Pakistan is working satisfactorily; and

(£>) the effect of the system on the influx of the refugees ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA) : (a) The system has worked, on the whole, satisfactorily, though of course, it has involved considerable inconvenience to the persons concerned. To avoid hardship the Governments of India and Pakistan have granted certain temporary relaxations. Various matters, not covered by the existing regulations, are also being taken up and settled between the two Governments. The situation is being watched carefully and appropriate action will be taken whenever necessary.

(b) Since the introduction of the passport system, there was a big reduction in persons travelling to and from between India and Pakistan. Partly this may have been due to the fact that just before the passport system was introduced, a large influx of refugees had taken place. Partly also because the travellers previously, who were not refugees, were greatly reduced in number. The situation is approaching normality now.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, how many passports were issued from this end since the introduction of this system ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA : I have not got with me, Sir, the figures for November^ but up to the 31st October we had issued 5,500 passports and we also sanctioned 2,712 visas.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : How many were issued from that end ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA : I do not know how many were issued from that end but we had sanctioned 2,712 visas.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has it not come to the notice of the Government that people there who want to come to India find it very difficult to get passports ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA : We have the knowledge of their difficulties and I have already mentioned in my answer that considerable inconvenience is being felt. The main difficulty, Sir, is lack of accommodation to our staff in Dacca and also to some extent in Calcutta for the Pakistan staff.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, if the authorities there on behalf of the Government of India have represented to the Pakistan authorities about the difficulties that our people are finding in getting passports issued ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA : Continual discussion is going on between the two Governments in order to obviate these difficulties. There is soon going to be held a conference between their representatives and our representatives with regard to this question.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has there now been any improvement in the situation ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA : The situation is certainly improving.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is it not a fact, Sir, that merchants in India living on the border areas are not required to take any passports under the agreement between Pakistan and India ? If they want to get into Pakistan and do business, it is provided in the agreement between India and Pakistan that merchants living on the border areas need not take permits and passports and now has it not come to the notice of the Government that Pakistan authorities are insisting upon passports even for merchants ? Under the trade agreement they are not required to take visas or passports. They