

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA

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REPORT  
on the work of the  
INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER  
during 1934-35

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By  
Dr. D. B. MEEK, C.I.E., O.B.E., D.Sc.

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# OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

INDIA HOUSE, ALDWYCH,  
LONDON, W.C. 2.

No. T. 40A-2-3.

10th September, 1935.

*From: The High Commissioner for India,  
London.*

*To: The Secretary to the Government of India,  
Department of Commerce.  
Simla, India.*

SIR,

I am directed to forward herewith for the information of the Government of India the report prepared by the Indian Trade Commissioner in London on the work of his Department during the year which ended on the 31st March, 1935.

2. The report contains an instructive analysis of trade developments within the group of countries whose currencies are on a sterling basis as compared with those in the countries included in the "gold bloc." Two interesting conclusions emerge from this examination:—

- (1) The British Empire and the other countries in the sterling group have during the year relatively improved their trade position in the United Kingdom market, and
- (2) the recovery has, generally speaking, been more rapid in this group.

3. Some effects of the Tea and Rubber Regulation schemes are briefly described in the report. Sir B. N. Mitra is gratified to note that as a result of the representation made on behalf of India to the International Rubber Regulation Committee, the quotas originally allotted to India and Burma have been increased.

4. The report does not attempt to analyse the results of the Ottawa Agreement, the working of which has been the subject of a detailed examination in India by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and also by a committee of the Indian Legislatures. The main features of the export trade with the United Kingdom during the year were an increase in the supplies of both long and short staple cotton and of tea and a decline in respect of coffee, unmanufactured tobacco, oilseeds and raw jute. Indian rice suffered considerably owing to Spanish competition, but, as a result of representations made by India, the duty on imported non-Empire paddy has been raised, with a view to enabling India to derive the full benefit expected from this concession under the Ottawa Agreement.

5. The report includes as usual chapters on Timber, Lac, Minerals and Publicity, written by the special officers attached to the Department. Teak continues to be the main timber imported, and the principal decorative timbers in demand are Indian Silver-greywood and Indian Laurel. Considerable progress is recorded in regard to research work on the application of lac products in industry. The Department took part in 16 trade exhibitions, as against 9 in the previous year, and the number of trade enquiries at exhibitions rose from 670 in 1933-34 to 820 in 1934-35, the main articles which attracted attention being rice, chutneys, curry powder, carpets, leather, skins, sports goods and jute webbing.

6. An important development in regard to the organisation of the Trade Department was the opening of the Milan office under a separate Trade Commissioner, Mr. M. R. Ahuja.

Sir Harry Lindsay retired from the post of Indian Trade Commissioner on the 30th September, 1934, after holding this office for more than 11 years. Sir B. N. Mitra wishes to take this opportunity of placing on record his high appreciation of the ability and zeal with which Sir Harry performed his duties and of his constant solicitude in regard to the interests of Indian trade.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

**B. RAMA RAU,**

*Deputy High Commissioner.*

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