

**State Trading Corporation of India
(Private) Ltd.**

- *920. { Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Damani:
Shri E. S. Lal:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Limited has been negotiating with the U.S.S.R., East Germany and Czechoslovakia for the supply of machinery and other capital goods on deferred payment basis;

(b) if so, whether the negotiations have concluded; and

(c) the names of goods and machinery to be received from these countries?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some contracts have been concluded with the foreign trade organisations in the U.S.S.R. and the German Democratic Republic. Negotiations with some other countries including Czechoslovakia are still in progress.

(c) Contracts have been concluded for the import of textile machinery from the U.S.S.R. and the German Democratic Republic and printing machinery from the U.S.S.R.

Press Council Bill

- *921. { Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government do not propose to proceed with the Press Council Bill; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and

(b). The Press Council Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha and transmitted to the Lok Sabha in December 1956 for consideration and passing but it could not be proceeded with for want of time. Meanwhile, it also became apparent that there were differences among important sections of newspaper interests over the structure of the proposed Press Council. In accordance with Government's decision not to take up any controversial legislation during the March 1957 Session, it was decided not to proceed with the Bill in the Lok Sabha in that Session. With the dissolution of the Lok Sabha on the 4th April, 1957, the Bill has lapsed.

Government propose to take up the Bill but before doing so they would like to see the differences narrowed down. Any major departure from the general principles proposed by the Press Commission is not considered desirable by Government.

Ambar Charkha

*922. Shri Kesava: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of increase in the production of Khadi as a result of the efforts made by the Khadi and Village Industries Board to meet Government requirements ever since the introduction of Ambar Charkha; and

(b) to what extent Ambar Charkhas have started to function in the country (State-wise)?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) 1956-57 was the first year of the introduction of the Ambar Charkha programme. The commercial production in that year was small. It is too early to determine the extent to which the Khadi & Village Industries Commission would be able to meet Government requirements as a result of the introduction of the Ambar Charkha programme. It may, however, be stated that till now by and