

large the entire Government requirement of knadi has been met.

(b) Up to the 30th June, 1957, 61,662 Ambar Charkhas had been distributed for independent operation. A statement showing the Statewise distribution of the charkhas is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 26].

Registration of Patents

*923. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even now the majority of patents registered in India are owned by foreigners, and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of foreign-owned patents as against Indian-owned patents?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign-owned patents were about 90% as against 10% Indian-owned on 30th June, 1957.

Employees' Provident Fund Act

*924. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 14/1 on the 21st December, 1956 and state whether any decision has been taken in regard to extension of the Employees Provident Fund Act and the scheme framed there-under to employees of cinema theatres and the lowering of the minimum limit from fifty to fifteen?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The matter is still under consideration.

International Tea Agreement

*925. { Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan
Shri Hem Barua:

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

(a) whether the negotiations regarding International Tea Agreement have since been completed, and

(b) if so, the names of the countries which have so far entered into this Agreement?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Active Looms

*926. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the exact number of active loomage working in the textile mill sector;

(b) for how many days in a year the looms are working;

(c) how many shifts are there; and

(d) the average production of cloth per loom per day?

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

(a) Approximately 1,96,670 looms are reported to be active as against an installed loomage of 2,04,498,

(b) On an average, the looms work for 300 days in a year;

(c) Most of the mills work 2 shifts; but some work 3 shifts as well;

(d) The average production per loom per day is estimated to be 45 yards per shift

Cement Quotas

*927. { Shri Tangamani;
Shri Balakrishnan:

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

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government for increasing the quarterly quota of cement allotted to Madras State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.