

some of the steam raising equipment, that is, boilers and power supply, are lacking in the Nepa Mills. Now they are being provided for and we hope that practically the top capacity of 80 to 82 tons per day will be reached within the next six months.

**Shri Heda:** As per programme the mill has started manufacture of newsprint. Is it a fact that they have taken a decision to switch on to white printing with a view to use the full rated capacity?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** No, it is a newsprint manufacturing factory, not of printing paper.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know how the cost of production now compares with the imported ones?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Quite favourably.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** According to the information previously supplied by the management of this concern, the shortage of power was the great stumbling block. But from what the Minister now says it seems that it is lack of certain essential items of machinery which have prevented this concern from going into full production. What are the true facts?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Perhaps the hon. Member has caught only one part of the point. There are so many factors besides even these two, but these are two major factors. As far as power supply is concerned, the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board have been contacted and they are trying to raise it to meet the full requirement of the factory.

**Shri V. C. Shukla:** Has the Madhya Pradesh Government requested for the supply of Chambal power, when it becomes available, to Nepanagar?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Not as far as we know, because Chambal power is to be used for some other purposes.

### Cottage and Small Scale Industries

\*842. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received so far by the Delhi Directorate of Industries and Labour for the grant of loans under the State Aid to Cottage and Small Scale Industries Rules 1956;

(b) how many of them have been accepted, and

(c) whether Government is able to cope up with the growing demands of Cottage and Small Scale Industries in the State?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). During 1956-57, 621 applications were received of which 178 were accepted by the Delhi Administration. Further 474 applications have been received during the current financial year, but none has been accepted so far out of these.

(c) Yes, Sir. Adequate funds are being given to the Delhi Administration for loans to small industrialists.

**Shri Heda:** In view of the intensive industrialisation of the Delhi area, may I know why this arrangement of sanctioning loans is tacked on with the Punjab State and whether it has adversely affected the Delhi interests or otherwise?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** These are not loans which are tacked on to the Punjab. If the hon. Member is referring to medium and large size loans, that is a different matter. These are under the State Aid to Cottage and Small Scale Industries, and they are directly administered by the Delhi Administration.

**Shri Heda:** The figures given by the hon. Minister show that in nearabout 22 per cent. of the applications, the loans were sanctioned, and then he stated that adequate funds have been provided. May I know the quantum of the fund and whether that will cope

up with the pending and new applications?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There are many qualifications before an application is accepted. So merely by preferring an application it does not mean that it can be accepted. We have provided about Rs. 25 lakhs in the current year to the Delhi Administration.

**Shrimati Manjula Devi:** May I know whether the State of Assam has received anything under this scheme and, if so, how much?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I have the break-up of all the States. The Assam State has received about Rs. 15 lakhs.

#### Indian Pepper

\*344. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that freight rates on pepper from Singapore and Cochun to consuming countries adversely affect India's export of pepper; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) The freight rates for pepper from Malabar to the ports in Europe have been increased by about 25 per cent. over the 1955 level and to U.S.A. by nearly 40 per cent. The level of freight rates from Singapore is lower and complaints have been received that Indian pepper is handicapped in the Continental and American markets.

(b) The Director General of Shipping has taken up the question of this disparity in freight rates with the Shipping Conferences concerned.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May we expect some decision by the Shipping Conference in our favour shortly?

**Shri Kanungo:** The first round has not succeeded; the second round is going on.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether the problem of our exports of pepper is because it is of a far superior quality than what is required by the meat packing industries in foreign countries; if so, what do we propose to do in order to step up our exports to other countries in view of this?

**Shri Kanungo:** We have taken various steps as I have stated in reply to some other questions. We have to face the competition of inferior varieties and cheaper prices. We are conscious of it and the Pepper Board is taking steps.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Are Government aware that the entire cultivation of pepper is of a superior variety and it is not possible to switch over now to an inferior variety in order to gain markets?

**Shri Kanungo:** We do not want to switch over to inferior varieties, but we want to induce new customers for the superior varieties.

हिन्दुस्तान एंटीबायोटेक्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड

\*५४७ श्री वासर : क्या बालिष्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान एंटी-बायोटेक्स (प्राइवेट) लिमिटेड को पैनिसिलिन के निर्माण के लिये जिन पदार्थों, जैसे कि लैक्टोज, ग्राउन्डनट मील, फास्फोरिक एसिड, पोटेशियम एसिड की आवश्यकता होती है, वे प्रावश्यकता से बहुत अधिक मात्रा में खरीद ली गई हैं, और बाजारों पर्याप्तों का एसिड का स्टॉक बेकार पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और