

**Shri Yajnik:** May I know the maximum number of typewriters that can be produced in the country today and the installed capacity that already exists?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As is given in the statement, last year's production was 15,430. But the installed capacity, if foreign exchange is available and also all the raw materials are available, can be enhanced in the next three years to 36,000 typewriters.

**Shri Yajnik:** What is the amount of foreign exchange that is spent on the import of steel that is required for this?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** They are different for different units. It varies from 20 per cent. in one case to about 65 per cent. in another case.

**Shri Yajnik:** What is the total?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The total value is not kept in separate statistics. This relates to each firm according to its requirements.

**Shri Jeebhim Alva:** Out of 15,430 typewriters produced in 1957, how many were produced by the foreign firms who have set up their manufacturing concerns in India, e.g., Remington Typewriter (Private) Ltd. and how many by the sole Indian concern, Godrej?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The Godrej Company has produced about 2300 typewriters, Remingtons have produced 11900 and the Rayala Corporation 1773.

**श्री गोविन्द दास :** जिस इस्पात की टाइपराइटरों में जल्द होती है, क्या उस के बनाने का कोई प्रयत्न भारत में किया जा रहा है और यह कब तक घासा की जाती है कि हम को बाहर से टाइपराइटर नहीं मंगाने पड़ेंगे ?

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** टाइपराइटरों का घायात भावकम बिलकल बंद है।

कि मैंने स्टेटमेंट में कहा है जुलाई तक १६५७ से टाइपराइटरों का घायात बंद है और हमारा इरादा जहाँ तक हो सके उस की सोलने का नहीं है। इसका मतलब यह है कि हम हिन्दुस्तान में ही सारे टाइपराइटरों अपनी जइस्त भर के बनायेंगे। जहाँ तक मेटल का तात्बुक है वह २५ रुपये का स्टील ऐलाय नहीं बन सकता है इसलिए क्लिहल उसे मंगाना पड़ता है।

**Shri Tangamani:** From the statement we find that since July 1957 the import of typewriters has been completely banned, and last year there were more than 15,000 typewriters manufactured in the country. May I know how many typewriters are likely to be manufactured this year?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is difficult to anticipate that because of foreign exchange difficulties. Even if we have to go without typewriters we may have to little bit tighten up because of the foreign exchange restrictions.

**Shri Tangamani:** I wanted to know whether it is still at 15,000 or anything more is likely to be manufactured during this year—1958.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is difficult to anticipate but, as I said in the main part of the answer, we do expect a certain rise.

#### Closure of Textile Mills

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Shri Balasaheb Patil:  
Shri Jadhav:  
Shri Bhoji Bhal:  
Shri Rameshwar Tamta:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile mills in Dhulia and Amalner (Bombay State) will be closed down shortly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the management have served notices to the workers to that effect;

(c) what is the number of workers in the above mills; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to avoid the closure?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) and (b). The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to Messrs. Pratap Spinning and Weaving and Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Amalner, and Messrs. New Pratap Spinning Weaving and Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Dhulia. The mill at Amalner has put up a notice for closure of the mill from 16th May, 1958. From the mill, at Dhulia, no intimation has been received as regards its complete closure. The mill is at present working partially since 11th January, 1958.

(c) The number of workers employed in the above mills are 2,676 and 2,579 respectively.

(d) The representatives of both the mills were interviewed by the Textile Commissioner in connection with the closure of the mills when it was suggested to them to apply for loans from the National Industrial Development Corporation for modernisation of their machinery which was said to be old and outmoded.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Sir, this closure of textile mills has become a very serious problem. May I ask the hon. Minister whether this matter is being looked into seriously, and whether a High Power Committee is going to be appointed to go into the cases of all textile mills which have been closed—this may be the 28th or 29th—in the country?

**Shri Kanungo:** The normal closures of mills usually have been of the order of 20 to 25 all along.

**Mr. Speaker:** Per annum?

**Shri Kanungo:** 25 mills per year—that is in past years. At present it is somewhere round about 35 or 37. Therefore, it is on the higher side, but we hope that with the recent fiscal measures which have been taken conditions will improve and there will be no cause for anxiety.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** May I know whether the Government is aware of the present condition of some of the coarse and medium cloth manufacturing mills; and if so, what steps the Government is taking to check further closure of these mills?

**Shri Kanungo:** I have already said that in view of the difficulties certain fiscal measures have been taken as late as March, 1958, and we hope that in a short time conditions will improve in respect of mills which are largely on coarse and medium cloth.

**Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj:** May I know whether it is a fact that the management and labour union at Dhulia negotiated and came to some sort of compromise by which the labour will voluntarily accept reduced wages, and the management has agreed to start the mill?

**Shri Kanungo:** Some negotiations are going on under the auspices of the Bombay Government; we have not got the latest details about it.

**Shri Yajnik:** In view of the fact that most of the 35 mills remain closed and none of them has reopened after they closed down, does the Government know that there is a very serious apprehension being felt in Bombay and other cities of the impending closure of a good number of textile mills in the near future because of the very big and excessive accumulation of stocks with them?

**Shri Kanungo:** I would suggest that the apprehension of a large-scale closure is not justified, because within recent weeks stocks have been moving. I would also take this opportunity to correct the figure relating to closure of mills which I gave earlier—it is not 37, it is 27 or 28.

**Shri Goray:** May I know whether the Somani Enquiry Committee has been asked to go into the details of the working of these mills?

**Shri Kanungo:** Not all these mills; the Somani Enquiry Committee was set up for two mills.

**Shri Khadlikar:** As he just now said that all the mills are not closed because stocks have accumulated, is it a fact that some of the mills are closed down because of bad management and, if so, have Government taken any steps to enquire into this aspect of the management of mills?

**Shri Kanungo:** Some of the mills might have been closed down due to various other causes, but they will all be enquired into. When bad management is complained of, that will be enquired into. But, as I said, the number of closure of mills in India, out of the 460 mills, is not enormous.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Sir, the excise duty has been reduced and some relief has been given to the millowners. May I know if after the reduction any millowner has come forward to reopen a closed mill?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** Sir, I shall state the general position. It was generally said by the millowners that if they get some relief in excise duty it would be possible for them to open the mills and continue production. They also expected that the stock would be lifted up. The reduction has been given, as the House is aware, but it has been given very recently and it is very difficult to give exact figures of the lifting of cloth. But the reports that I have received convey—I get that impression, I cannot be quite certain about it—that the lifting has considerably improved since the relief in excise duty was given. I hope the House will wait for some time to see the result of the relief given to them.

But, in case the lifting is not satisfactory and the stock continues to accumulate, Government will have to think over that matter seriously. That matter, in a way, is engaging my attention, and I propose to have a discussion with the millowners when

I go to Bombay next, but I cannot say what further steps will have to be taken.

As regards mismanagement in mills, as my colleague has said, if in any particular case action is called for, it will be taken.

**Shri Tangamani:** In the light of the statement made by the hon. Minister, may I know whether suitable steps would be taken to prevent the closure of the mills in Amalner, who have said that they will close on 16th May, 1958, since the closure of these mills affects more than 2500 workers?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** As already stated by my colleague, the Bombay Government—Shri Shantilal Shah, Minister—is discussing with the Union. He is trying to arrive at some settlement and he is quite hopeful in that. If that settlement is arrived at, it would be possible for the mill to work.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** As the hon. Minister said that he will have some talk with the millowners in Bombay, may I submit that about 10,000 workers in Kanpur have been rendered surplus—they are on the street—and may I know whether the hon. Minister will kindly consider this matter and talk to the millowners of Kanpur who are notorious?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** If the hon. Member will invite me to Kanpur, I will certainly go there.

**Shri Damani:** Apart from these two mills, may I know whether some other mills have been served with a notice of closure, and, if so, the names of those mills may be given.

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir. We have no information about that.

**Shri K. N. Pandey:** May I know how far the reduction of excise duty has eased the situation in Kanpur, because three mills are closed for the last so many months and there is no hope of improvement?

**Shri Kanungo:** As has been said earlier, it is too early to assess the fiscal measures. We have to wait and see the momentum of the effect on those mills.

#### Import of Small Cars

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\*1918 { **Shri Rajeshwar Patel:**  
**Shri Feroze Gandhi:**  
**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Hindustan Motors have been allowed to import small cars recently;

(b) if so, the number of such cars and the amount of foreign exchange involved;

(c) the landed price of each car; and

(d) the control, if any, Government exercise on the selling of these cars?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (d). As several Hon'ble Members have evinced interest in this matter, a detailed statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 50.]

**Shri Rajeshwar Patel:** In the opening paragraph of the statement it is said that applications were made for the importing of baby cars as early as 1954. May I know what were the special reasons which weighed with the Government to deny or not to entertain the applications for import in 1954-1955 and 1956, and what were the particular reasons for sanctioning the import in 1957, when it is said that the foreign exchange position was rather difficult and also in view of the fact that the other manufacturing units of baby cars were not allowed their usual quota on the plea that there was the difficulty of foreign exchange?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The whole position has been amply set out in

the statement. First it was licensed in 1953 and token imports were allowed in 1954. Then the Morris Minor was being changed to Morris 1000cc by the foreign collaborators. In September, 1955, the firm submitted the manufacturing programme. I am only repeating what is given in the statement. In September, 1955, they sent us a new scheme for Morris 1000cc. At that time, as the House is aware the entire question had been already entrusted to the Tariff Commission. So, Government thought it fit to wait for the Tariff Commission's report. I have reproduced the Tariff Commission's comment in the statement on Baby Hindustan. Therefore, it was thought that we may allow the manufacture of the Hindustan Baby to go forward. That was in October, 1956. Therefore, licences were issued in the first place for 250 units. Subsequently, as the House is aware, the foreign exchange situation developed. It was post-January, 1957.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** That is not the reply to that question. The question was quite different.

**Mr. Speaker:** He said that it started as early as 1953.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The question was why there was discrimination.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no discrimination so far as the Minister is concerned. He says this matter was taken up as early as 1953, and so on.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** Is it a fact that the import licences for established manufacturers whose indigenous content had reached 38 per cent. in the case of Fiat and 30 per cent. in the case of Standard 10 were drastically cut due to foreign exchange crisis and whether these cuts were restored prior to the Hindustan Motors being granted Rs. 17 lakhs foreign exchange for the import of 500 Baby Hindustans in completely knocked down condition for subsequent assembly.