

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Installation of additional processing machinery is not prohibited while installation of printing machines is permitted only if it is in replacement of existing old and worn-out machines. Applications for import licences for such machinery as are not indigenously manufactured are considered on their merits and on the availability of foreign exchange from time to time.

Shri Rameshwar Tantis: May I know whether Government are aware that cloth exported from India is re-exported from U.K. after being processed and printed? May I know the difficulties that stand in the way of giving licences to those mills that want to purchase the processing and printing machinery, so that we can earn more foreign exchange and also give more employment to labour?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are two aspects to the question. It is true that some of the grey cloth which goes out from this country as export is reprocessed in the countries of import and both sold inside those countries and also re-exported to the other countries. But it is not always possible that those people will buy the finished cloth from us, because the quality of finish required is of a very high standard, but we are giving all encouragement for the expansion of the local processing industry, and, therefore, the indigenous manufacture of processing machinery as the House will be glad to know, has risen in the last two years from Rs. 39 lakhs to over a crore of rupee during 1958, and further steps are being taken to manufacture as much machinery indigenously as possible.

Shri Dasappa: May I know what percentage of the textiles imported in this grey cloth?

Shri Manubhai Shah: According to the present estimate, it is about 60 to 70 per cent.

Shri Rameshwar Tantis: May I know what will be the Government

policy if there be indigenous machinery available for printing? Will they allow anything?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have already mentioned in answer to part (c) that if indigenous machinery is available, there is no restriction on processing. But, of course, in printing, in order to protect the hand-printing industry, no indiscriminate expansion will be allowed in the machine printing.

Synthetic Rubber Plant

*327. **Shri Osman Ali Khan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of experts from U.S. has visited India in connection with the setting up of a synthetic rubber plant;

(b) if so, whether this team has been invited by the Government of India;

(c) whether the team has selected a suitable place for the setting up of the factory; and

(d) what is the decision of Government thereon?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A team of experts from a leading U.S. firm visited India recently, in connection with the setting up of a synthetic rubber plant, and undertook investigations.

(c) and (d). The report of the team is expected by March or April, 1959.

Shri Osman Ali Khan: May I know whether the team has had discussions with the Government and has indicated that the synthetic rubber plant with petroleum base is a much more economic proposition from the point of view of future expansion?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Last week I had the privilege of answering the hon. Member that there is no question of a second synthetic rubber plant based on any other base excepting

power alcohol and that too at Bareilly because, after careful investigation, Government came to the conclusion that the right place for the overall availability of power alcohol is Bareilly where we have the problem of the disposal of the surplus power alcohol in this country.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether, by establishing this synthetic plant, our rubber production in the country will be seriously affected?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Not at all. On the contrary, our plans for the expansion of rubber replantations and new plantations is forging ahead. But, because, as the hon. Member and the House is aware, replantation and production of yield of natural rubber takes a considerably long time, we have got to make our country self-sufficient in the requirement of rubber.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : रा रबर और सिन्थेटिक रबर की कीमत में क्या फर्क है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : भन्दाजा यह है कि कोई ज्यादा फर्क नहीं पड़ेगा—एक दो आना ज्यादा हो या कम हो ।

श्री अक्स दखान श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अमरीकी विशेषज्ञों का जो दल यहाँ आया था, वह केवल बरेली की फैक्टरी के सम्बन्ध में आया था, या उस ने सारे देश में घूम कर इस विषय में कोई जांच की थी ।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार ने बड़ी जाच-पडताल की थी । इस मामले में सारे हिन्दुस्तान के नक्शे को देखा गया था कि कहा कहा पावर एलकोहल सरप्लस है । यह देखने के बाद पाया गया कि इस के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश ही सब से अच्छा स्थान है और उस में भी बरेली को चुना गया क्योंकि वहाँ पर आस-पास डिस्टिलरीज होने के कारण वह पावर एलकोहल का केन्द्र है ।

Shri Warior: May I know whether this Report will be available for the

Rubber Board for their consideration; and may I also know whether the Rubber Board has intimated to Government its reactions on synthetic rubber production?

Mr. Speaker: Have the views of the Rubber Board taken on this?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The question in this simple matter is this. Today our requirement has risen to about 50,000 tons of total rubber per year. Production of natural rubber comes to about 20 to 22 thousand tons; in another 10 years, with all efforts, it will not rise to more than 35,000 to 40,000 tons. Therefore, in view of the great requirements of rubber—for various rubber industries and transport industries—we have got to make our country self-sufficient by the manufacture of synthetic rubber.

Shri Warior: Have they referred it to the Rubber Board?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The Government of India is in charge of the Rubber Board and we have always consulted that aspect with the experts in our country.

Shri Bose: Has it been examined whether all the raw materials necessary for the synthetic rubber will be available in India or whether it will depend on foreign import?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The entire manufacture of synthetic rubber will be made from indigenous raw material, styrent from Rourkela and butadiene from power alcohol from Uttar Pradesh, roundabout Bareilly.

Mr. Speaker: Next question, Pandit Tiwary

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I am a sponsor of this question. I put a question with regard to an incident which took place in Dhulan in Murshidabad district, just about 100 miles from this place. I do not understand how this Nadia has come in. It is question No 828.

Some Hon. Members: We are in 827.

Mr. Speaker: 327 is over now. What is the hon. Member's complaint?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: My question is about 328. My complaint is that this incident which has been mentioned in the question took place in Nadiad. The question, notice of which I sent related to some incident taking place in the Murshidabad district just about 100 miles from this place.

Mr. Speaker: It is a mistake that there was some incident there also. They were clubbed together. The hon. Member may put that question also.

Pandit Tiwary.

Indians Kidnapped by Pakistanis

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 *328. { **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:**
 Shri Tridib Kumar
 Chaudhuri:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 21 Indian nationals were kidnapped and 3 boats loaded with jute captured by the Pakistani Military personnel from the border near Nadia (West Bengal) in the third week of November, 1958; and

(b) if so, whether they have since been released?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Between 14th and 18th November, 1958, Pakistani Military personnel trespassed into Indian territorial waters in River Padma near Nurpurkuti under P.S. Suti, District Murshidabad and kidnapped 21 Indian nationals along with 3 boats loaded with 350 bales of jute belonging to an Indian national.

(b) The Government of West Bengal have reported that according to their information these persons have been convicted and are now undergoing imprisonment in East Pakistan, presumably for alleged trespass into Pakistan territory.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any enquiry has been made whether the three nationals actually trespassed into Pakistan waters? May I also know whether the jute confiscated is to be returned or not and what is the value of the jute?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It is the Pakistani military personnel that trespassed into Indian waters.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Obviously, an attempt at an enquiry is made. But, it is very difficult to enquire when the persons chiefly concerned, the persons who have been arrested by the Pakistani people, are not available. The argument is—remember—as to what part of the river the boat was in. It is an exceedingly difficult thing, normally, to say whether it was on that side or on this side. According to our information, such as we can get, and it is not possible to be very comprehensive, they were in our territorial waters and the Pakistanis came to our territorial waters. But the Pakistanis say that the boats had gone to their side of the river; and they have got the main witnesses with them.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: With regard to the second part of the question, about the amount of jute goods taken, the answer is that 350 bales weighing 1,400 mds. and worth Rs. 36,000 were taken.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: This incident took place about 1½ months after the two Prime Ministers came to an agreement. May I know if there was any formal agreement or informal understanding that, as the main stream of the river Ganga is liable to change shifting sometimes more to the Pakistan side and sometimes more to the Indian side, that plying by country boats on these rivers would not be interfered with; and may I know if Government has taken advantage of that understanding to draw the attention of the Pakistan Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?