

not in the public interest to disclose this information in the present stage.

Canada-India Reactor

*538. { Shri Wodeyar:
Shri Agadi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India-Canada Reactor was stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total investment; and

(d) what are the annual recurring expenses?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadash All Khan): (a) The Canada-India Reactor attained criticality for the first time on July 10, 1960. After that, it was in continuous operation till September 1960, when it was shut down for a period of 4 weeks to make modifications to the emergency cooling water system and the ventilation system as required by the Hazards Evaluation Committee. After completion of these modifications, the reactor was again started in November, 1960, and has been in continuous operation.

(b) During normal operation, the reactor is stopped a number of times for making various minor modifications, removal of fuel rods, checking of interlocks, alarm system and trip circuits.

(c) India's total capital investment is estimated at about Rs. 5.60 crores. Canada has contributed roughly the same amount towards the project.

(d) The annual recurring expenditure on the operation of the reactor on the basis of continuous full power operation is estimated at Rs. 20 lakhs exclusive of the cost of uranium required to feed the reactor which will depend upon the burn up achieved.

Import of Raw Silk

*539. Shri Tyagi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of raw-silk imported during the year 1960 and the amount proposed to be imported during 1961; and

(b) what is the method of its distribution?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). 2.38 lakh lbs. valued at Rs. 46.04 lakhs (c.i.f.) in 1960 and about 3.5 lakh lbs. valued at Rs. 80 lakhs (c.i.f.) approximately in 1961.

Imported raw silk is distributed by the Central Silk Board among actual users through the State Governments and recognised co-operative Associations of consumers, and the exporters entitled for allotments under 'Export Promotion Scheme'.

Press Conference

*540. Shri M. B. Thakore: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of press briefings and press conferences held during the month of January, 1961.

(b) the names of press correspondents invited at the press briefings given by:

(1) The World Bank representatives,

(2) The spokesmen of the Railway Ministry, and

(3) The spokesmen of the Planning Commission;

(c) whether any representation in this regard has been sent by the Press Association to the Press Information Bureau and action taken on the same;

(d) the reasons for giving over-emphasis to English newspapers at such press conferences;