

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, the policy has been slightly modified.

(c) On account of the improvement in the supply position of electrolytic copper, import became unnecessary as the indigenous industry was largely able to meet the demand for plastic wires and flexibles.

PRICE OF BALL-BEARINGS

***2133. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the prices of Indian ball-bearings Nos. 6204, 6205 and 6206 used in the manufacture of agricultural implements, specially the chaff-cutters, are in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 13 per pair;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the price of Japanese ball-bearings of the same variety is about Rs. 4 per pair;

(c) whether Government are aware that the cost of Indian ball-bearings has risen by about 200 per cent. ever since the industry was given protection;

(d) whether the agricultural implements manufacturers, particularly in the Punjab, are finding their business extremely unprofitable in view of the heavy price they have to pay for ball-bearings; and

(e) whether the Government of India have any proposal to fix the prices of Indian-made ball-bearings at a reasonable level?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (d). Some representations in this regard have recently been received.

(b) and (c). Government have no information.

(e) The operation of reasonable prices in respect of industries which are protected is a duty cast on Government and the Tariff Commission. Government are asking the Development Wing of the Ministry to investigate this aspect of the matter.

FACTORY FOR EXPLOSIVES

***2134. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the proposal for the setting

up of a factory for the manufacture of explosives for civilian purposes;

(b) if so, which place has been selected for the setting up of this factory; and

(c) what its annual production will be?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). The question of manufacture of civilian explosives in India is under consideration and no final decision has yet been taken with regard to the location of the factory or its productive capacity.

REPRESENTATION FROM NASIK CITY VAIDY MANDAL

***2135. Shri B. D. Shastri:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Nasik City Vaidya Mandal, Nasik, requesting the Government of India to reduce the import duty on certain articles used in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines?

(b) What action have the Government of India taken or propose to take on this representation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

“हरिके” बांध

१४१४. श्री बलचन्त सिंह नेहता :

क्या सिंचाई तथा विद्युत मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि “हरिके” बांध का उद्घाटन किया गया है ; तथा

(ख) इस बांध से कितने एकड़ भूमि की सिंचाई होगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) For the present no new areas will be irrigated from this Barrage. Canals are under construction to connect to the existing Eastern and Gang canals which take off from Ferozepur. In addition some of the old inundation canals will be replaced by a small canal taking off the new head-works. No decision has yet been taken regarding irrigation of new land from this head-works.