

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow the export of cotton yarn for the year 1953;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances leading to this decision;

(c) whether any limit has been imposed on such export and if so, what it is; and

(d) whether, and if so how many applications have been received from the exporters?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) Yes.

(b) On an assessment of supply and demand position and the accumulation of stocks with mills.

(c) Allotments for exports are made to mills according to their total output which related to their deliveries of cotton yarn for internal consumption during the calendar year 1952. The total quantity of cotton yarn that is likely to be licensed under this scheme for the half year January-June 1953 is estimated at about 26,000 bales.

(d) Under this scheme about 200 mills will be eligible to receive allotments for export. Exports against allotments may be made either by mills or by their nominees. So far allotment letters have been issued in respect of 105 mills.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what was the total production and internal consumption during the year 1952-53?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not got the exact figures with me with regard to total production. I shall give it to the hon. Member later. The average is about 72,000 bales of free yarn available to handlooms every month on 1952 production.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the total requirement both for the mills and for the handlooms in the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said the total free yarn available during 1952 was about 72,000 bales every month—that is for handlooms. So far as consumption by the mills is concerned, I would require notice. I have not got the information.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the quantity of yarn available and to which countries have they been exported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There are no destination quotas fixed. So far, as I said, allotment letters have been given to 105 mills and they cover roughly about 22,000 bales. The

actual export figures are not yet available.

Seth Govind Das: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that from time to time, handloom industry is very much affected on account of want of yarn? Is this export of yarn going to affect those people or can the hon. Minister say that this export will not affect the handloom industry at all?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is that these export permits were given in order to relieve the stock position of the mills. Because of lack of off-take of yarn by handloom industry over a period of 7 or 8 months, stocks were accumulating. In order to relieve the mills, these export licences were given. Government is quite sure in their minds that the position of yarn in regard to supply to handloom will not be affected at all.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Is the Government; is India still importing cloth from foreign countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government does not import cloth.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I said, India.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Nanadas: May I know if there are any differences in prices between yarn for exports and yarn for internal consumption?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the case of yarn for internal consumption, prices are controlled. In the case of yarn for export, prices are not controlled.

CONTROLLED CLOTH

*1417. **Shri Tulsidas:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the production in 1952, of such varieties of cloth in respect of which price control has not been removed so far;

(b) the total estimated annual demand for each of the aforesaid varieties; and

(c) the opening and closing stocks of these varieties of cloth in the year 1952?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 48.]

(c) Information regarding the opening and closing stocks of these categories of cloth is not available.

Shri Tulsidas: May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of the production of these different varieties of cloth in excess of the estimated demand, it is worth while continuing production control on these varieties?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a matter of opinion. Government seem to think in a different way from the hon. Member.

Shri Muniswamy: What are the countries which are importing Indian mill cloth in the place of handloom textiles imported previously, and what is the quantity in respect of each country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would require notice.

BISCUITS

*1420. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement and production of biscuits in India;

(b) the annual import and export of biscuits and the countries from which the same is imported and also the countries, if any, to which the same is exported; and

(c) whether the Federation of Biscuit Manufacturers of India have sought any protection from the Government of India against foreign competition and if so, whether any steps have been taken in that direction?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 49.]

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether it is a fact that the Biscuit industry in India, due to lack of market, produced only 12,000 tons last year as against a total production capacity of 38,000 tons a year, and if so, how the Government propose to help this industry in this respect?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government is not in a position to ask the consumers to consume more biscuits. Apparently, production is more or less related to the consumption and demand. The capacity is undoubtedly 38,000 tons. The demand varies from 15 to 12,000 tons according to the purchasing capacity of the consumers.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to allow the import of special biscuit and bread making machinery in order to enable the manufacturers to improve the quality of the product?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. There was a time when new machinery was not allowed to be imported or installed. Government feel that that ban need no longer exist.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: May I know whether the restriction on the issue of licences for biscuit manufacturers in the Madras State still continues, and if so why?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I did mention that there was a ban some time back in regard to the import of new machinery for this purpose. Government see no reason to continue the ban now.

Seth Govind Das: By what time does the hon. Minister expect that there will be self-sufficiency in production and this country will not have to import biscuits?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At present, there does not seem to be any idea of encouraging imports except in order to maintain quality. I might mention to the hon. Member that we are giving a very small quota for import of biscuits. Even on this Government have put a high rate of duty. Recently, the duty has gone up by almost 100 per cent. If anybody wants quality biscuits and is prepared to pay the price, Government gets a revenue on the import of such biscuits. The whole idea is that quality should be maintained and that a leavening of quality biscuits should come in so that the consumer might express his satisfaction or otherwise of the local biscuits. It is not contemplated that any thing very much by way of quantity is likely to come in at the present prices.

ARRESTS ON WESTERN PAKISTAN BORDER

*1421. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested so far on Western Pakistan border for infringing passport regulations since the introduction of passport system between India and Pakistan; and

(b) how many of cases of such persons have been disposed of?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chandra): (a) 977 on the East Punjab and Rajasthan border with West Pakistan. Informa-