

statement giving the required information. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 16.]

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know, Sir, what changes are proposed to be effected in the automobile industry as a result of this expert's advice?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, this expert has not come to advise us in regard to making changes in the automobile industry. He has come for a very specific and limited purpose about which the House knows, because I explained this matter at the time when a supplementary demand for this purpose was placed before the House. He was merely brought here to advise the Tariff Commission in order to help them to make up their mind in regard to the quantum of protection and other ancillary and incidental matters, which are now engaging their attention.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether this expert is an expert who served the German Government before, or he was attached to a private firm there?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Before he left for India he was apparently employed by a firm.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether this expert has any particular experience in setting right an automobile industry consisting mostly of assembling plants and run under the joint auspices of foreign and local capital?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does 'his question arise? Whether it is this capital or that capital, it is not relevant. Hon. Members during Question-hour will just elicit information and not go on arguing. It does not matter whether the capital comes from X or Y. He may put a question as to whether the expert has got any knowledge for the work for which he has been called.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The problem here is.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are not going into all the problems. Has the hon. Minister any answer to give?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know what the question was.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the expert is an expert in cost accounting or manufacturing process?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I hear he is an expert engineer. I do not know whether an engineer's qualifications include knowledge of cost accounting.

Shri Kelappan: May I know the remuneration that this expert receives?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is contained in the statement.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that Germans are the best automobile manufacturers in the world, and that was the reason why an expert was called from Germany?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Member is arguing.

SUBSTITUTE FOR IRON AND STEEL

***882. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any substitute or alternative to be used for structural purposes has so far been found to relieve the continued shortage of iron and steel in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No satisfactory substitute has been found so far.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: In view of the answer given, may I know what further steps, if any, are being taken to relieve the shortage of iron and steel?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, so far as Commerce and Industry Ministry know, no substitutes can take the place of iron and steel. If the question is in relation to any particular purpose for which iron and steel is used, as for instance housing, I think, the question should be directed to the Minister in charge of Housing.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: Is it a fact that wood can be substituted for iron and steel in the case of telegraph posts and the like?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think wood is now used in a large measure for telegraph poles; as also reinforced concrete where the quantum of iron and steel is comparatively negligible.

CLOTH PRODUCTION

***883. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of improvement in cloth production during the year 1952 as compared to that of 1951; and

(b) the change in the price level of cloth during the year?

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

(a) The production of cloth in 1952

was 4608 million yards as compared to 4076 million yards in 1951.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 17.]

Shri Jhulan Sinha: What is the production of cloth at present?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The production of cloth in 1952 was 4,608 million yards.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether this includes cloth produced by handlooms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir; this is only mill production.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: What is the total production of *dhotis* and *sarees*?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know whether there is any improvement in the consumption of cloth and if so how much; if not, why not?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if the prices of cotton cloth were at all adversely affected by the fact that damaged cotton worth about a crore of rupees was sent by some Californian firms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I don't think so.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether there has been any increase in the export of cloth during this year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The export of cloth during last year was somewhere under 600 million yards. It is too early to say what the export of cloth this year will be.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if Government is aware of the fact that some cotton manufacturers have filed suits against certain American firms and steamship lines for sending one million dollar worth of damaged cotton?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Actually, Sir, the suits have not been filed by the people who own textile mills but by the insurers. Some Indian as well as foreign insurers who had underwritten the import of cotton from U.S.A. have, I understand, filed suits against original shippers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that his reply to the extent of

improvement in cloth production' does not include production by handlooms. May I know from him why cloth does not include hand-loom cloth. Is it not because the total production has gone down?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can only say that the figures given by me include only textile production, that is production by textile mills.

Shri Kelappan: May I know the production of handloom cloth during the same period, 1951-52?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has not got the figures.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not got the accurate figures. I can only make a guess on the basis of yarn supplied. It is rather difficult for me to give an estimate. If the hon. Member will put down a question I will answer it.

NEWSPRINT

*885. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the estimated requirement of newsprint for India for 1953-54?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Between 60/70,000 tons.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know how much of the estimated requirement of newsprint is going to be imported and how much is produced in India?

Shri Karmarkar: The whole of it is being imported at present, but it is hoped that the Nepa Mills will be producing something by the end of this year.

Shri L. J. Singh: What will be the estimated value of the newsprint that is going to be imported?

Shri Karmarkar: The present prices, I understand, are round about £ 53 per ton for reels and £ 58 per ton for sheets.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is it proposed to have self-sufficiency in newsprint, and what is the policy of the Government in the matter?

Shri Karmarkar: We have been encouraging one mill which, as I said, is likely to produce something by the end of this year. We have advanced them aid and the Government of Madhya Pradesh is also sponsoring the scheme.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether we are importing newsprint from dollar areas now, and whether there is any possibility of importing newsprint from Russia hereafter?