

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The extra amount of rupees spent on the various items mentioned by the hon. Member due to the devaluation of the rupee cannot be calculated because the variation in the rupee value of imports was caused not only by the change in the exchange rate of rupee but also by various other causes like fluctuations in foreign prices, variations in our import requirements, availability of supplies in foreign countries and the foreign exchange resources limiting the value of permissible imports.

FOREIGN FIRMS

***732. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of foreign firms which were previously incorporated outside India (country-wise) and have since Partition got them incorporated in India with rupee capital?

(b) What is the total authorised and paid up capital for such firms?

(c) How many of such firms have joined partnership with Indian businessmen?

(d) How is the total authorised capital of such firms divided into various industries?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) to (d). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 17]

GOVERNMENT HARNESS AND SADDLERY FACTORY

***733. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals are being considered or have been finalised for the closure of the Government Harness and Saddlery Factory, Parachute Factory and Small Arms Factory at Kanpur;

(b) whether the Government of India have considered the question of converting these factories for production of civilian goods if not, why not; and

(c) whether the reports of the re-organising committee on this subject will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) No, but in the process of the general economic review of items of defence expenditure, Government is examining, *inter alia*, the 89 P.S.D.

justification for maintaining in their existing form the several defence installations including ordnance and clothing factories. This examination is a routine matter and is made periodically in a general way, but not with reference to any particular installations.

(b) The question has not been considered as the factories are producing equipment required by the Defence Services. To the extent that they have capacity surplus to immediate defence requirements, they are already being used for production of goods required by civilian indentors.

(c) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the report of a departmental committee. If so, it is not intended to place the report on the Table of the House.

IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

***734. Bishop Richardson:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what steps are being taken to improve the standard of education in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): In 1951, an officer was deputed to Andamans to prepare a plan for the development of educational facilities and the report of the officer is now under consideration. A provision of Rs. 35,000 has been made in the current year's budget for making a beginning.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES EMPLOYEES

143. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Enquiry set up to examine the present day scales of pay of civilian personnel employed in Ordnance Factories and to suggest ways and means for the implementation of the Central Pay Commission's recommendation, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the report and taken any decision in the matter; and

(c) if not, how long it will take to come to any decision in the matter?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise