

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether there are American experts in this organisation?

Shri Nanda: There are no such experts.

IMPORT OF SILK

*10. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the quantity of silk imported upto the end of September in 1952 from Italy and Japan?

(b) How far has it affected the prices of indigenous silk goods?

(c) What action have Government taken to stabilise the prices of silk yarn, fabrics and cocoons?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Imports of raw silk from Japan were 231,347 lbs. There were no imports from Italy.

(b) Raw silk imports have not affected the prices of indigenous silk fabrics.

(c) The Government's policies regarding import of raw silk and protection to the Sericulture Industry are aimed at securing fair and reasonable prices for cocoon and raw silk producers.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has made any assessment of the total demand of silk in the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: An estimate has been made by the Tariff Board and the demand has been put down at a figure of 4 million pounds.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what is the total amount of fabrics, yarn and cocoons produced in the country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member wants production in regard to raw silk, I can give the figure but not in regard to fabrics. I have got the figures for 1949-50 and 1951-52 upto September 1952—1,168,695 lbs.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any representation from mills, Handloom and Powerloom's Associations to stop further imports?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir these representations have been coming in. As a matter of fact industries always want something to be done in matters which affect them. But at the moment no imports are coming in.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have collected data with regard to the people unemployed so far due to the closure of the mills?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid not.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What about import from Italy?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is no import from Italy.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Has import from Italy been banned or there has been no demand?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid I cannot answer that question precisely.

Shri Nambiar: May I know if the Government are aware that a large number of workers are unemployed due to this crisis in the Mysore State in the silk industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can take the information from the hon. Member.

CUSTOMS UNION WITH FRENCH SETTLEMENTS

*11. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there is a proposal between the Government of India and the French Government for the re-establishment of the Customs Union between India and the French Settlements in India?

(b) If so, what is the nature of the proposal?

(c) At what stage is the negotiation?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). Such a proposal was made and the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer given by me on the 28th May, 1952, to question No. 20 in the Council of States. The proposal was to revive the Customs Union Agreement of 1941 with such modifications as may be considered necessary.

Some correspondence has taken place with the French Government on this subject. The situation in the French Settlements in India has, however, greatly deteriorated and the Government of India have now suggested to the French Government that the only approach to the question of these settlements is to discuss the question on the basis of their union with India.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know how long the previous arrangement lasted?