

Shri Bogawat : May I know if there are several applications from weavers in Bombay State, and especially from Ahmednagar, for exemption so far as power-looms are concerned?

Shri Karmarkar : All those who are entitled to exemption will get them.

Shri K. K. Basu : On what basis?

Shri Karmarkar : I am not aware of any particular applications pending with us.

Shri Thimmaiah : May I know the factors taken into consideration in fixing the limit of exemption at 24.

Shri Karmarkar : I thought my friend could easily appreciate the decision. Where there are very small units, they are likely to suffer more.

Shri Heda : May I know the proportion or the percentage of the power-looms that are closed because they could not work economically?

Shri Karmarkar : We have not any information on the matter.

Export Advisory Council

*1331. **Shri Ramachandra Reddi :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing :

(a) the number of meetings held by the Export Advisory Council in 1953-54 and 1954-55 so far ;

(b) the nature of recommendations made by the council during this period ; and

(c) how many of them have been implemented by Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 43].

Shri Ramachandra Reddi : May I know the specific recommendations made with regard to the removal of licensing restrictions on exports and improvement in transportation and shipping facilities?

Shri Karmarkar : Yes, Sir, there were discussions on various points. Now, the suggestions so far as the last meeting is concerned, are like this. Liberalisation of export lines, promotion of new lines of export, measures for expansion of export trade, reduction or abolition of export duties, transport and shipping facilities for export, simplification of licensing procedure and customs

—these were the various subjects discussed, and it would be difficult to give a detailed precis on all the discussion that took place.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi : I wanted the specific recommendations that have been made, but the hon. Minister has given only generalisations thereof. If they are not confidential, can the hon. Minister give the specific recommendations?

Shri Karmarkar : They are not at all confidential. In fact, our proceedings are open to the public, press, and my hon. friend will find a very good summary published in the Press during those days when the meeting was held.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi : With regard to part (c) of the question, it is stated that the suggestions made by the Council are given full and prompt consideration. My question was whether they have been implemented by the Government? Do the Government consider that implementation is synonymous with consideration?

Shri Karmarkar : Sometimes yes, Sir, if the matter is too simple.

Textile Production

*1333. **Shri D. C. Sharma :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the target fixed for textile production under the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : No targets have as yet been fixed.

Shri D.C. Sharma : May I know if it is the intention of the Government to increase the *per capita* consumption of cloth in India in the Second Five Year Plan, and if so, what is the approximate figure they have in mind?

Shri Karmarkar : We have generally envisaged that the *per capita* consumption should rise to 18 yards per head.

Shri D. C. Sharma : Has the Government studied the recent statement which has been made by certain manufacturers that the *per capita* consumption of cloth in India could be raised to 21 yards without much difficulty? Has that proposition been considered by the Ministry?

Shri Karmarkar : My hon. friend presumably refers to reports that appeared in the press two days back, but I have no definite information in the matter. It