

Stores Purchases

*335. **Shri Jethalal Joshi** : Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of stores purchased by the Government of India through the purchase organisations in the Ministry in 1954-55;

(b) how much of it was indigenous and how much foreign ; and

(c) whether any policy of price preference in respect of Indian products is followed by Government ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) Rs. 162 crores approximately.

(b) Indigenous Rs. 47 crores.

Imported Rs. 115 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir :

Shri Jethalal Joshi : May I know the total value of articles of cottage and small-scale industries which the Government have purchased in pursuance of the policy of price preference, during the year 1954-55 ?

Shri Karmarkar : I should like to have notice of this question.

Shri Jethalal Joshi : May I know whether there is co-ordination between the Disposals Department and the Supply Department, and if so, in what way ?

Shri Karmarkar : Definitely there is co-ordination between the Supply and the Disposals Departments. These things are disposed of when they are not required, and those things which are required are ordered by Government.

Shri Esvara Reddi : May I know the total amount including the purchases for the railways and defence, and if so, will the Minister be pleased to state those figures ?

Shri Karmarkar : I have not got the Ministry-wise figures, but if the hon. Member is interested in the broad break-up of those figures, I can mention some items of indigenous stores. They are : steel trough sleepers, fish bolts and nuts, crossings, spillway radial gates, centrifugally cast iron spun pipes, tents, cotton textiles, vehicles and Indian plywood.

Central Silk Board

*337. **Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafiq** : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of the Central Silk Board has been held in Jammu and Kashmir State in May, 1955;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed by the Board in the meeting ; and

(c) the nature of the report submitted by the Board to Government ?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting was held at Srinagar on 27th and 29th May 1955.

(b) In addition to matters relating to establishment and organisation of the Silk Board, proposals for popularising the use of pure silk fabrics and for the technical development of indigenous sericulture industry were discussed.

(c) The Board has recommended that :

(i) a few persons should be deputed to Japan on study tour ;

(ii) two Japanese Technicians specialised in subject like egg production etc. should be secured, preferably under the Colombo Plan ;

(iii) the imports of spun silk yarn should be canalised through the Central Silk Board ;

(iv) the question of cost structure of Cocoons should be referred to the Tariff Commission ; and

(v) schemes costing Rs. 12,17,495-8-0 received from various State Govts. should be approved.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : May I know whether it is a fact that recently the price of cocoons has fallen considerably and what steps have the Central Silk Board taken to arrest this fall in prices ?

Shri K. C. Reddy : It is true that the price of cocoons has fallen recently to a certain extent. The Central Silk Board is giving its attention to this aspect of the problem.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : May I know whether the import of spun silk from foreign countries, especially from China will not affect the local production ?

Shri K. C. Reddy : It all depends upon the circumstances under which imports take place. This is a subject which has to be dispassionately watched constantly. Feasible and practical steps will have to be taken from time to time in this regard.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : Is it not a fact that the silk that has been imported from China is not being cleared because there is no demand for it and that as a result of this import, there has been a scaling down of the price of raw silk also in the market ?