

SOAP INDUSTRY—INSTALLED CAPACITY
OF

*33 { Pandit D. N. Tiwary :
Shri Esware Reddi :

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an appreciable percentage of the installed capacity of soap industry in the country is idle ;

(b) if so, the reasons for this ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure full working of these units?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) and (b). The nature of the equipment used in the soap industry is such that the term 'installed capacity' has no precise connotation in relation to the soap industry. In fact, the capacity of any soap factory unit is capable of being increased without any large addition to its equipment. But for statistical purposes the installed capacity of the organised sector is assessed at 245,000 tons which is the aggregate of the figures given by each unit of the capacity it possesses. It is estimated that the present production in the organised sector is half this figure. It is difficult to assign precise reasons for these factories not producing to their maximum extent. One set of reasons might be the competition *inter se* between these organisations. Another might be due to the fact that the cottage industry units have increased their production considerably of late.

(c) (1) Establishment of new units or expansion of existing factories is not permitted.

(2) Soap is an item in the export promotion and is included in trade agreements.

(3) Import of soap is not allowed under our present Import Schedule except for a small quantity of medicated soap.

NON-FERROUS METALS

*34 { Sardar Hukam Singh :
Shri Heda :

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been considerable rise in prices of non-ferrous metal due to option trading in metals during the last six months ; and

(b) if so, whether the Forward Markets Commission has taken any action to stop such illegal forward trading?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) Yes, Sir. The rise was due to many causes. Option trading might have been a contributory factor.

(b) In India, forward trading in copper, lead, tin, and zinc is conducted only at Bombay under the auspices of the Bombay Metal Exchange Ltd. In December 1955, some allegations had been made regarding the existence of option dealings in the Bombay Metal Exchange. The Forward Markets Commission asked the Association to take proper steps to put down such option dealings. Such dealings are now reported to have stopped.

STATE ELECTRIFICATION BOARDS

*35. { Shri Krishnacharya Joshi :
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the number of States that have formed Electricity Boards?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : Five—Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra, Bombay, and West Bengal.

HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS

{ Shri N. M. Lingam :
Shri Punnoose :
*36. { Shrimati Ila Falchoudhury :
Shri Wodeyar :
Shri Gidwani :

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred