

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: A little while ago we had a question about an extradition treaty with Burma. Burma and India are very friendly countries, but in considering this matter all kinds of little things are suggested by one side and considered by the other. Even more so, these questions are likely to arise with Pakistan.

Shri Kamath: Since when has this matter been pending consideration? Since 1947?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not quite that I do not exactly remember the date, but some years ago, when it was dropped because of certain difficulties that had arisen. It has been taken up recently again.

Shri Kamath: Was the matter dropped because there were objections from Pakistan's side, or did the difficulties come from our side or did we ourselves drop the matter *suo moto*?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No question of our objecting to each other here. We deal with another country with which we have, as the hon. Member knows, all kinds of problems. Some of those problems impinge on this also.

Shri Kamath: Asvague as ever.

Sealing of Looms in Jute Mills

*926. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 21 on the 16th July, 1956 and state:

(a) the total number of hours of work that the 'Badli' workers are losing as a result of the sealing up of 2½ percent looms in Jute Mills;

(b) whether any compensation is being given to the 'Badli' workers for the loss of working hours; and

(c) if so, what?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Since Badli workers constitute a floating labour force employed in temporary vacancies, not only in jute mills but in other industries as well, it is not possible to give a specific reply to the question. However, following the sealing of the looms, Badli workers have been more extensively employed in leave and other vacancies, with the result that the employment position generally, has not been materially affected.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Tushar Chatterjee: The hon. Minister said the other day that if a question was put he would collect the information and give the answer, but he has said now that no definite information is available.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have attempted to collect the information and the information that we have now is that

no specific answer to the question raised can be given.

Cloth Prices

*927. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the details of measures Government propose to take to check the rise in cloth prices in the country?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kengunge): A statement is laid on the Table of the H.C. Sec. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 52].

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The statement shows some of the measures that have been and are being taken under the Second Five Year Plan. Am I to understand that there will be no decrease in the price of cloth at all after the completion of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No, Sir. The hon. Member would be wrong if he is to make any such assumptions.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: In the statement it is said that one of the causes for the increase in cloth prices is the increased demand. May I know whether the Government have any data to show from which section of the people the increased demand arises?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know since when these measures have been taken and whether there is any indication as to the lowering of prices?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There was a slight lowering of prices during the last two months, but I cannot say that the position will remain stable.

Steel

*928. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of steel proposed to be produced in India during the years 1956-57 and 1957-58; and

(b) the quantity out of it to be allocated to the Railways?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) 1.2 million tons in 1956-57 and 1.4 million tons in 1957-58

(b) 0.3 million tons in each of the year 1956-57 and 1957-58.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What was the allocation demanded by the Railways for 1956-57 and 1957-58 and what percentage

of the allocation has been met by indigenous production ?

Shri M. M. Shah: The Railways demanded 10,60,000 tons in 1956-57 and 10,11,000 tons in 1957-58 out of which, as I have indicated, three lakh tons have been allotted from indigenous production.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know who the other large-scale consumers of steel in India are, and how Government are going to allocate the indigenous steel to them?

Shri M. M. Shah: Now, there is no distinction between the allocation of indigenous steel and that of imported steel, after the equalisation scheme. After the allocation to the railways, the next main allocation is to the Defence Ministry, and after that, the State Governments and steel processing industries.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In what way are the Ministry of Iron and Steel proposing to meet the reasonable demands of the Railways during these two years, and what proportion of imports is going to be allocated to them?

Shri M. M. Shah: As I have already indicated, against the requirement of 10,60,000 tons, they have been allocated 3 lakhs of tons from indigenous production, and 7,60,000 tons from imported steel.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि ज्यादा मात्रा में स्टील (इस्पात) उपलब्ध होने पर स्टील की भावों में गिरावट धायेगी ?

Shri M. M. Shah: It is too early to anticipate any price today.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether Thomas quality of steel is going to be manufactured in India, and if so, whether the plants for steel production in India will have to be improved?

Shri M. M. Shah: At present, there is no Thomas quality or any special steel being manufactured. But there is a plan to produce 10,000 to 15,000 tons of such categories of steel during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Just now, in reply to a supplementary question, the Minister stated that it is too early to presume the actual price of steel. Now the whole industrial production is based on the production of steel. So, unless and until . . .

Mr. Speaker: No arguments.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : I am not putting forward any arguments. First, let me be allowed to put the whole

question, and then you can judge. The whole structure of industrial development is based on the prices of steel, because the original estimates of the steel constructions depend on them. On what basis will our industrial targets will be fixed, if the actual price is not known and is not calculated?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The people who start industries will base their calculations on the price of steel obtaining in the world markets.

Shri K. K. Basu: On the wishes of the Commerce and Industry Minister.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What is the public demand for steel, and what percentage of it is met from indigenous steel production ?

Shri M. M. Shah: As I have already indicated before, the present demand is about 3.5 million tons of which 1.2 million tons is indigenous production and 2 million tons will be earned by imports. Also imports of steel are allowed freely to meet any public demand. There is no difference between indigenous and imported steel. It is all pool price now. Whatever is imported by Government is thrown into the pool in the equalisation fund.

अखिल भारतीय खादी और ग्रामोद्योग बोर्ड

*६२६. **जी भक्त वर्मान :** क्या उत्पादन मंत्री २६ फरवरी, १९५६ के तारकित प्रश्न संख्या ३३२ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि ऊन कातने के लिये इटली और इंग्लैंड के बने हुये उन्नत श्रेणी के चर्रों को प्रयोग में लाने का जो भावनासन अखिल भारतीय खादी और ग्रामोद्योग बोर्ड ने दिया था, उसे क्रियान्वित करने की दिशा में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

उत्पादन मंत्री के सहायक (जी० ए० गि० बुवे) : ऊन कातने के लिये ५० के०, इटली तथा जापान में इस्तेमाल किये जाने वाले उन्नत श्रेणी के चर्रों के बारे में अखिल भारतीय खादी व ग्रामोद्योग बोर्ड ने पूछ-ताछ की थी। अभी तक केवल ५० के० से सूचना प्राप्त हुई है। बोर्ड का विचार है कि उस देश में इस्तेमाल किये जाने वाला चर्रा न्यूनाधिक भारत में इस्तेमाल किये जाने वाले चर्रों जैसा ही है। इटली और जापान के अधिकारियों से सूचना अभी भी प्रतीक्षित है।