

Textile Mills

*15. **Shri Bogawat:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spindles working in textile mills at present;

(b) the number of new spindles licenced during 1955-56 and 1956 till present;

(c) whether Government propose to sanction licences for more spindles in 1956-57; and

(d) if so, the number thereof ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) The total number of spindles installed in cotton Textile Mills in India is 12.05 million as on 1-1-1956.

(b) Licences sanctioned in 1955-56—1473007. No licences were sanctioned in 1956-57 upto date.

(c) Yes, subject to an upper limit of 2.1 million spindles, including 1.9 million which have been already licenced but not installed sofar.

(d) The number of additional spindles which will be actually available for licencing is under examination.

Shri Bogawat: Would not the installation of additional spindles be detrimental to the handloom spinning industry and development of a decentralised economy ?

Shri M. M. Shah: No, Sir.

Shri Bogawat: Is it not a fact that the Handloom and Village Industries Board have urged postponement of the installation of fresh spindles ?

Shri M. M. Shah: The Handloom Board have not conveyed any such view. This has been taken into consideration when 1.9 million spindles had been already licensed. The remainder is only 2 lakh spindles.

Shri Veerawamy: May I know whether the sanction of more spindles to textile mills will not greatly affect the handloom industry and thereby create unemployment in that industry ?

Shri M. M. Shah: Actually, 300 million yards have been reserved for the Ambar Charkha and as such, there is no conflict between that industry and the Ambar Charkha.

Shri M.J.S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what is the basis of the allocation of this new spindleage? Is it on the basis of the capacity of various mills operating or is it on the basis of applications ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The basis has been on a calculation of producing 18.5 yards of Cloth *per capita*.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the restrictions, at least in the subsequent year, in the grant of licences for spindles have

created any black-marketing in spindles as was feared ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So I am told.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the position in regard to the prices of these spindles as compared with the period prior to the imposition of these restrictions and now ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Black-marketing in prices of spindles ? I am not in touch with that aspect of the case. I have been told by people like my hon. friend that there is a little black-marketing, if we could use that word; that is to say value of licences has appreciated by a few thousand rupees here and there. But I am not able to evaluate what exactly it is. In any event, if any such thing comes to my knowledge, naturally the licence will be cancelled.

Shri G. P. Saha: May I know whether the opinion of the Handloom Board will be taken before granting new licences ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Handloom Board have nothing whatever to do with this matter.

Shri Bogawat: Is it not a fact that the Village Industries Board are complaining against the installation of fresh spindles and that Government have promised them not to instal any fresh spindles in 1958 ?

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

Recovery of Abducted Women

*16. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of abducted women recovered so far during 1956 in India and Pakistan; and

(b) the total number of such women restored to each country during the same period ?

The Minister of Works Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Upto 31st May, 1956, 431 Muslim abducted persons were recovered in India and 156 non-Muslim abducted persons were recovered in Pakistan.

(b) During the same period 128 Muslim recovered persons were transferred to Pakistan for restoration to their relatives and 55 non-Muslim recovered persons were brought to India.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the number of persons at present in the transit camp at Lahore ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got that information.