

HANDLOOM CLOTH MARKETING EMPORIA

***1851. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where Central Handloom Cloth Marketing Emporia have been opened or are proposed to be opened;

(b) what is the basis on which location of these has been decided; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to start any more emporia of this nature during this year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Emporia will be opened at Singapore, Colombo, Bangkok, Rangoon, Chittagong, Karachi and Aden.

(b) These are considered to be appropriate centres for our handloom cloth markets.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the total investment on these emporia?

Shri Karmarkar: The total estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 3.5 lakhs Government will contribute Rs. 2.87 lakhs, while the rest will be contributed by the Madras Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, which is collaborating with us.

Shri S. N. Das: What will be the form of management of these emporia?

Shri Karmarkar: We have proposed to appoint four Handloom Cloth Marketing Officers at Singapore, Rangoon, Colombo and Baghdad respectively, to act as liaison between Indian exporters and the overseas importers of handloom cloth, and also to open sales emporia at the places I have mentioned.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What is the assessment of Government, regarding the contribution made by these emporia in pushing up the sale of handloom cloth?

Shri Karmarkar: Assessment of the contribution of the emporia? Their

whole function will be to push up the sale of handloom cloth.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: May I know whether mobile emporia are proposed to be used for advertisement purposes?

Shri Karmarkar: These are stationary emporia.

TOILET SOAP

***1852. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any restriction has been imposed on import of toilet soap;

(b) the import figures of toilet soap for 1952-53, and 1953-54; and

(c) the quantity manufactured in the country?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 31.]

(c) About 14,000 tons.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know what is the consumption in the country, and whether the whole of it is being met from indigenous production?

Shri Karmarkar: The consumption has varied, but our normal requirements are produced—about 14,000 to 15,000 tons. During 1951, we produced 15,000 tons, in 1952 we produced 13,800 tons and in 1953 (January to November) 11,900 tons. That is the position.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How many foreign manufacturers of toilet soaps are working in India and what quantity do they produce?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice—there is at least one of them.

Shri Meghnad Saha: What is the installed capacity of toilet soap manufacture in the country?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the figure. But the installed capacity is