

(c) what will be the yearly saving if these materials are manufactured in the country?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). The current consumption of acid dyes and sulphur drugs in the country is about 650 tonnes and 700 tonnes per annum respectively. This is met by both indigenous production and imports. Imports are obtained from U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R. and other countries. During 1961-62, imports of acid dyes were to the extent of Rs. 79.41 lakhs while the imports of sulphur drugs were about Rs. 93.84 lakhs.

About 55% and 27% of the demand of acid dyes and sulphur drugs respectively is being met by indigenous manufacturers.

A saving of foreign exchange of about Rs. 50 lakhs in the case of acid dyes and about Rs. 70-80 lakhs in the case of sulphur drugs may be effected if these items are produced indigenously.

Export of Coir Products

837. Shri P. K. Ghosh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the coir products that is annually exported;

(b) whether supply of coir products far exceeds the demand;

(c) if so, how much stock is lying idle due to the lack of foreign purchasers; and

(d) what action is being taken to step up the export of coir products?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) A statement showing the quantity and value of the coir products exported during the last three years is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 89].

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The steps taken to step up exports of coir and coir products include participation in exhibitions abroad, display in show-rooms attached to Indian Embassies and Consulates in foreign countries, dissemination of publicity literature, sending delegations, conducting market surveys in foreign countries and affording export incentives by making available raw materials such as sisal yarn, dyes and chemicals and essential items of machinery against exports of coir goods under the Export Promotion Scheme.

Handloom Industry

838. Shri P. K. Ghosh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what main development schemes were undertaken by the handloom industry during the first two years of the current Plan?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 90].

Punjab Requirements for Iron and Steel

839. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirements of iron and steel of Punjab State during 1962-63; and

(b) the total supply made so far?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). *Steel*.—Allotments are made only for categories of steel which are in short supply i.e., BP Sheets thinner than 14 Gauge and GP & GC sheets. During the first half year of 1962-63, no allotment of GP/GC sheets was made. The total demand for these three categories was 76,515 tonnes.