

(i) availability of foreign exchange, (ii) local production and (iii) the minimum needs of the textile industry for all aspects.

**Purchase of Newsprint from Czechoslovakia**

2104. { Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with Czechoslovakia for the purchase of newsprint from that country;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) when the consignment will be available in India?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., has concluded a contract on the 2nd March, 1965, with M/s. Ligna, Praha (Czechoslovakia) for the import of unglazed (machine finished) newsprint reels.

(b) The contract is for 6,000 metric tons.

(c) The first consignment of 500 metric tons is expected to arrive at the Indian ports by about May, 1965. The second lot of 1,500 metric tons is to be delivered in the third quarter of 1965 and the balance of 4,000 metric tons is to be delivered in the fourth quarter of 1965; of this quantity 2,000 metric tons may, however, be shipped in the first quarter of 1966 as mutually agreed upon.

**Export of Matches**

2105. { Shri Kasinatha Dorai:  
Shri M. P. Swamy:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether matches produced in the country are exported to any foreign country; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to direct the machine-made match producers to export a part of their production with a view to encouraging cottage match industry?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Yes, some exports of matches are being effected.

(b) No such proposal is under Government's consideration. We have already included matches within the purview of Export Assistance Schemes.

**Consumption of Matches**

2106. { Shri M. P. Swamy:  
Shri Kasinatha Dorai:

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

(a) the annual consumption of matches in the country;

(b) the annual production of matches by the Western India Match Company and its allied concerns;

(c) the annual production of matches by the cottage match industries; and

(d) whether it is a fact that production of matches by Western India Match Company and its allied concerns has exceeded 50 per cent of India's annual consumption which is contrary to the agreement reached with the Tariff Enquiry Committee in 1927?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra):** (a) Figures of consumption of matches are not available. However, as there is no commercial import of matches and the total production of matches is consumed in the country, the figures of production may be taken as the consumption figures. Production of matches in 1963-64 was 6832.08 million boxes of 50 sticks.

(b) Production of matches by M/s. Western India Match Co., and its allied concerns was 3980.05 million boxes of 50 sticks during 1963-64.