

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Government are aware that prices of dhotis have generally risen. The restriction order does not apply to saris.

BALANCE OF TRADE

607. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the balance of trade position between India and the United Kingdom for the first quarter of the financial year 1953-54?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): An adverse balance of Rs. 768 lakhs.

STAFF ARTISTES IN A.I.R.

609. Shri Rajagopala Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that staff artistes in the A.I.R. have not been given any increments this year?

(b) What are the sickness benefits enjoyed by the staff artistes in A.I.R.?

(c) Is there any Provident Fund Scheme?

(d) Are they paid any gratuity when their services are dispensed with?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir. The entire question of classification of artistes according to the type and quality of work had been under consideration and increments with retrospective effect are now being sanctioned in cases considered deserving.

(b) Staff Artistes are entitled to free medical aid on scales admissible to regular Government servants.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

ELECTRICITY FOR QUARTERS OF CLASS IV GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

610. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the reasons for not yet supplying

electricity in the quarters allotted to class IV Government servants?

(b) How many quarters of Gazetted Officers in Delhi have got electricity connection in their servants' quarters?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Availability of material and financial resources necessitate that this work should be carried out only on a phased basis.

(b) So far 230 servants' quarters, attached to the Bungalows, including those of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and M.Ps. have been electrified.

BETEL-NUTS

611. Shri Wodeyar: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount of import duty realised in respect of betel-nuts imported during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53?

(b) What is the quantity of betel-nuts imported from January 1952 to August, 1953?

(c) What is the quantity of betel-nuts produced in India during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) —

1950-51—Rs. 4,43,81,500

1951-52—Rs. 4,74,84,155

1952-53—Rs. 3,68,79,000 (provisional).

(b) 10,70,000 Cwts. (from January 1952 to May 1953).

(c) Actual statistics for individual years are not available. Estimated annual production is 22 lakhs standard maunds.

CERAMIC FACTORIES

612. Shri B. C. Das: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ceramic factories in India manufacturing white-ware articles; and

(b) how many of the above factories manufacture (i) low tension porcelain