

(b) the circumstances under which these imports are made in view of the fact that Breweries and Distilleries in India are engaged in producing them in sufficient quantities and of good quality?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Mainly from the U. K., Netherlands, France, Australia, Italy, U. S. A., Spain and Portugal.

(b) Limited imports have been permitted because indigenous production is not adequate and the consumer demand is for better quality goods.

#### GYPNUM

**\*882. Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of gypsum that the Sindri Fertilisers buy from Rajasthan every year;

(b) the rate at which this is purchased; and

(c) whether there is any contract between the Sindri Fertilisers and Rajasthan Government for the supply of gypsum for any definite period of time?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) About 2,50,000 tons, per year.

(b) Rs. 5-14-0 per ton of gypsum of 87 per cent. purity F. O. R. Jamsar.

(c) No.

#### EMPORIA

**\*883. Shri Achuthan:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the policy of Government with regard to the opening of emporia and participating in exhibitions in foreign countries and exhibiting our indigenous works of art and other manufactured articles, especially handicrafts, in our embassies and legations?

(b) How many emporia of ours are there at present in foreign countries and in which countries are they situated?

(c) Is there any increase of export to those countries where such advertisement has been made?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Our object is to help the development of our export trade by giving as wide publicity as possible to goods which we want to export. We would desire to provide everyone of our Missions abroad with a show-room or commercial samples room. Subject to the need for economy, we also participate in a number of international fairs and exhibitions, the selection being done every year according to the importance of the fair and the likelihood of our being able to gain by participation in it.

(b) A list is placed on the Table [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 37.]

(c) Yes, I think so. It is, however not practicable to assess the results quantitatively, as Government is not in a position to book specific commercial orders on behalf of mercantile firms.

#### COTTAGE INDUSTRIES PRODUCTS

**467. Shri A. N. Vidyasankar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent orders passed by the U.P. Government and certain other State Governments about granting certain preferences in price to the products of cottage and small-scale industries over the mill-made articles;

(b) whether any such policy has been adopted in the Government of India's Store Purchase Departments;

(c) whether the Government of India have issued similar instructions to their departments; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to adopt a uniform store-purchase policy in all the States and in the Central Government to give preference to the products of small scale and cottage industries over the mill-made articles?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government of India have recognized the need to develop Cottage and Small-scale industry in the

country and with this object in view. issued their (Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply) Resolution No. Pur-I-4 (I), dated the 20th June 1952 to provide for adequate preference to Cottage and small-scale industry products over Mill-made articles.

(Copies of the Resolution were also forwarded to all State Governments.

(d) A uniform policy is being followed by the Central as well as the State Governments in so far as the principle has been accepted that preference is to be given to the Small-scale and Cottage industry products over the Mill-made articles. Each State is, however, free to adopt the percentage of price preference that may be considered necessary by it in accordance with the conditions obtaining in the State and the nature and the importance of stores to be purchased.

#### SOAPS

✓ 468. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total capital invested in soap factories;

(b) the share of foreign capital in it; and

(c) the total annual profits made by these factories during the period 1947-48 to 1952-53?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) According to the information available with the Government, the total capital invested in the mechanised soap factories is approximately Rs. 12½ crores.

(b) and (c). Information is not available.

#### AGARTALA CAMP

469. **Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the number of inmates in the camp for unattached women at Agartala?

(b) How many of them have been sent out?

(c) What were the reasons for their being sent?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) 600.

(b) 27 were asked to leave the Home but subsequently 5 women with their dependents were re-admitted.

(c) Misconduct including assaulting of cook and breach of discipline and participation in antisocial activities.

#### SILK FABRICS

470. **Shri Bhawanji:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the total indigenous production of silk fabrics in the country?

(b) What is the total domestic demand for the article?

(c) Is it a fact that there has been a complete ban on the imports of silk fabrics for the last few licensing periods?

(d) If so, what are the reasons for such a ban?

(e) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that as a result of the inadequacy of the supply position in the country, the price of the article has risen substantially causing great hardship to the consumer?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). Demand has been estimated by the Tariff Commission at about 9 million yards. Production has varied from year to year according to demand.

(c) No, Sir, imports of silk fabrics containing more than 10 per cent. and up to 90 per cent. silk are being permitted to limited extent since March, 1953.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir, in June last a representation was received from an Association of merchants in Bombay. It was apparently based on the misapprehension that imports were banned.

#### SILK

471. **Shri Bhawanji:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the indigenous production of raw silk-charka and filature in the country?