

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?