

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) and (b). The manufacture of artificial pearls on a large scale was started in India in 1950. According to the information available with Government, there are at present two concerns manufacturing artificial pearls, one using plastic and the other glass, with an installed capacity of 12,50,000 dozen pearls a month in the case of the former and 6,00,000 dozens in the case of the latter. Another firm is reported to have imported machinery for the manufacture of gilded glass beads and artificial pearls; this firm is expected to have a production capacity of 2,00,000 dozens a month.

Information regarding capital invested is not readily available.

(c) Information is not available.

(d) It is not possible to assess the requirements of artificial pearls for the country as a whole.

IMPORT OF BETEL NUTS

427. Shri Anirudha Sinha: (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the total number of applications received from the State of Bihar for grant of licences for importing betel nuts from 1st January, 1953 to 31st October, 1953?

(b) How many applicants were granted licence and for what total quantity?

(c) How many applications were from new entrants?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A statement is attached. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 62.]

OIL SEEDS AND OIL (PRODUCTION AND EXPORT)

428. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of various kinds of edible oil seeds and oils produced in each State in the country during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(b) the quantity of each kind of edible oil and seeds exported from India (which are used for the manufacture of hydrogenated oil in the country) during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53; and

(c) the policy of Government about the export of edible oils and oil seeds from the country?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Two statements are attached. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 63.]

(c) Export of all edible oils and oil seeds, other than mustard and rapeseed oils, is at present banned. Export of mustard and rapeseed oils is licensed freely on shipping bills, until the end of December, 1953.

SOAP (PRODUCTION)

429. Shri Radha Raman: (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the annual production of soap in the country?

(b) How many foreign firms are producing or selling as agents, soap in India?

(c) What is their average annual production?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The annual production of soap in the country by organised units is estimated at 85,000 tons, besides approximately 30,000 tons per annum by the cottage sector of the industry

(b) It is understood that three firms with foreign capital investment are engaged in the production of soap in India. It is possible there are some foreign firms who get their requirements manufactured by Indian owned factories.

(c) About 50,000 tons.

INDIAN HANDICRAFTS EMPORIUM IN CANADA

430. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are considering a scheme for