

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):
(a) 4425 lbs.

(b) 1,51,150 lbs. up to January, 1958.

(c) and (d). The information asked for by the Hon'ble Member is of a confidential character and cannot be disclosed without prejudice to the business interest of the Corporation.

(e) 33,690 lbs. upto February, 1958.

Watches and Clocks

2942. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
 { Shri Ram Krishan:

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

(a) the value of watches and clocks separately imported during 1957-58;

(b) how do these figures compare with those of 1956-57;

(c) the names of the countries which supplied the largest number of watches and clocks separately during 1957-58; and

(d) what steps have been taken to reduce their import?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) Imports during 1957-58 (April-October 1957 only):

Watches .. Rs. 119.11 lakhs

Clocks and
Time pieces .. Rs. 49.48 lakhs

(b) Imports during 1956-57 (April-March):

Watches .. Rs. 326.23 lakhs

Clocks and
Time pieces .. Rs. 90.16 lakhs

(c) Watches have been imported mainly from Switzerland, West Germany, Hong Kong, France, U.K., Italy, U.S.A. and Sweden while clocks and time pieces have mainly been

imported from Japan, West Germany, U.K., Italy, France, Switzerland and Austria.

(d) The import of clocks and watches has been banned from July, 1957.

Export of Pulses and Chillies

2943. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to permit the export of pulses and chillies to Ceylon;

(b) if so, quota of each commodity permitted to be exported; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned in this way?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) 10,000 tons of pulses were allowed export in two instalments in 1957. Similarly a quota of 3,500 tons of chillies was released for Ceylon in 1957.

(c) During January-November, 1957 for which figures are available, the value of exports of pulses to Ceylon amounted to Rs. 26.5 lakhs and of chillies to Rs. 43 lakhs.

Commission on Information Rights

2944. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation to the United Nations recently presented a paper to the Commission on Information Rights of the U.N. on ways to promote free circulation of news and development of information media;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the delegation; and

(c) the decision taken by the Commission on Information Rights of the United Nations?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes. A paper containing the suggestions of the Indian Delegation is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 58].

(c) The views of the Indian Delegation were included in the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information. The specialized agencies have been asked to consider and implement the suggestions concerning under-developed countries. The report is also being circulated to the Members of U.N. and to other organisations for their observation.

Tripartite Industrial Committee on Plantations

2945. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the decisions taken and recommendations made at the meeting of the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Plantations held at Shillong on the 21st and 22nd January, 1958; and

(b) the action taken by Government to implement these decisions and recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 59.]

Chemical Diamonds

2946. Shri Balakrishnan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the value of chemical diamonds which were imported during the year 1956-57;

(b) the value of chemical diamonds which were produced by the indigenous industry during the period;

(c) the quantity which is required annually; and

(d) the steps which have been taken to increase their production?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Separate information of imports of chemical diamonds is not available.

(b) to (d). Chemical diamonds are not produced in the country, however, synthetic stones are manufactured by a firm in Mettupalayam (Madras State) from October, 1957, at a rate of 40 Kilos per day, which will meet our annual requirements to the extent of 60 per cent. to 70 per cent.

Multi-Storeyed Buildings in Chembur Colony

2947. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fatal accidents have occurred in Chembur colony for displaced persons due to the falling of children from the low parapet wall of multi-storeyed buildings;

(b) if so, how many such accidents have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). One fatal accident is reported to have taken place.

(c) The roof of these buildings were never meant to be used by the inmates. In order to ensure that such accidents do not recur instructions have been issued to the Officer-in-Charge of the Colony to keep properly locked the doors leading to the roofs and not to allow the use of the same to unauthorised persons.

Electric Motors and Starters

2948. Shri Subbiah Ambalam: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of our requirements of electric motors and starters