

wherever possible, floor furnishings made of coir in Government owned buildings; and

(b) if so, what is the total value of coir mats and mattings bought for Government owned buildings in the year 1957-58?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) The relevant circular was issued from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the middle of March '58. Its effect, therefore, on the purchase of coir furnishing during the year 1957-58 would not be appreciable.

Closure of Textile Mills

{ Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan
Shri Morarka:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
*534. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Jadhav:
Shri Nath Pal:
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

(a) the number of textile mills closed down since the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of mills in which multiple shifts have been stopped during the same period;

(c) the loss of production due to the closure of these mills and shifts;

(d) the number of workers rendered unemployed as a result of closure of mills and shifts; and

(e) the nature of steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

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

(a) to (d). Two statements giving the required information are laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 37.]

(e) The present reduction and rationalisation of excise duty particularly in the case of coarse and medium varieties of cloth has been done in order to help the mills to liquidate their stocks and to prevent closure of mills and to restart closed mills. In addition, coarse *dhoties* and sarees lying in packed bales on 3-7-58 have been allowed the concession of clearance at old rates, provided the duty is paid on or before 30-9-1958. Scheduled Banks have at the instance of Government agreed to consider favourably the reduction of the margin of security against advances made by them to the mills.

Nangal Fertilizer-cum-Heavy Water Project

535. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1017 on the 18th March, 1958 and state:

(a) the further progress made so far in the setting up of the Nangal Fertilizer-cum-Heavy Water Project; and

(b) whether the electrical equipment for which order was placed with a British firm has since been received?

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

(a) The contract for the entire factory civil works (excluding silos and bagging plant with their ancillary buildings) has been awarded. The order for the supply of accessories and auxiliaries for the electrolysis plant has been placed on an Italian firm on deferred payment terms. Order for the Heavy water plant is under examination of the Government and is expected to be placed shortly.

The first consignment of the electrolyzers comprising 25% of the entire plant has arrived at the factory site

and the second consignment comprising another 25% was shipped from Italy on 11-7-58. Construction work on the buildings for the electrolysis nitric acid and ammonia plants and empty bag storage building has commenced and is proceeding according to schedule.

Construction of quarters in the permanent township in the first phase of construction is making steady progress. Construction of Central Avenue and main sector roads (except sector VII) in the permanent township is nearly complete. Work on the combined trunk sewer through the factory area has been completed except for man-hole top slabs. The laying of railway track from Nangal Dam Railway station (including Nangal Dam bridge) upto the factory entry point is almost complete. The laying of the track from the factory entry point to the site of electrolysis plant building is making satisfactory progress.

(b) No, Sir. The equipment will start coming in from the beginning of 1959.

Import Licences

536. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of foreign exchange commitment under the outstanding import licences;

(b) whether in view of the foreign exchange difficulties Government propose to review them; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) is in the negative, how Government propose to meet the requirements of this foreign exchange?

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

(a) The total amount of foreign exchange commitment under the outstanding import licences as on 1st March, 1958 is Rs. 534 crores.

(b) and (c). The position of outstanding import licences issued in

respect of commercial imports is kept under review every quarter so as to effect economy in the foreign exchange expenditure, as far as possible.

On the position in regard to Foreign Exchange to meet our essential commitments, the attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the Finance Minister's statement in the Lok Sabha on the 13th August, 1958 on foreign exchange.

State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Limited

537. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items exclusively exported by the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Limited;

(b) whether the export of these items increased or decreased after the State Trading Corporation took over; and

(c) what other items the State Trading Corporation propose to take over for exports?

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

(a) Iron ore and cement

(b) Export of Iron Ore has increased. The export of cement was banned for sometime before the State Trading Corporation took over the distribution of cement and as such there are no comparative figures to show its increase or decrease.

(c) There is no pre-determined list of such items. The selection depends upon the exigencies of the situation.

Sericulture in Kashmir

538. { **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
Shri Ram Krishan:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a centre in Kashmir for the