

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

preservation and multiplication of silk worm from abroad; and

(b) if so, the main features of this proposal?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to establish a Central Foreign Race Seed Station in Kashmir for the supply of 6.25 lakhs of parent seed of univoltine and bivoltine races of silkworms annually so as to do away with the present dependence on import of basic seed from foreign countries. This station, which is estimated to involve an outlay of Rs. 6.50 lakhs for non-recurring expenditure and Rs. 1,33,840 for recurring expenditure, will be under the direct control of the Central Silk Board.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir also propose to establish a basic seed centre which is estimated to involve an outlay of Rs. 4,97,100 for non-recurring expenditure and Rs. 11,724 for recurring expenditure

#### Import of Tin Plate

**539. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tin plate and tin ingots imported into India for purposes of packing of kerosene oil and foodstuff containers, tea chests and lantern manufacture; and

(b) whether the feasibility of substituting this tin by black sheet and turn plate containers has been examined in the interest of economy of foreign exchange?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):**  
(a) Import statistics of tin plates and tin ingots used specifically for the purposes are not available. Figures regarding total import of tin plates

(Prime and Secondaries) and Terneplates during 1956-58 are as follows:

Year	Tinplate (Prime) (Tons)	Tinplate (Secondaries) (Tons)	Terneplate (Tons)
1956	41,646	14,930	845
1957	7,997	20,278	502
1958 (upto June)	10,632	3,087	25

Figures regarding import of tin ingots in 1957 and 1958 are as follows:

1957	3,391 tons
1958 (upto April)	1,551 tons

(b) As there is no appreciable difference in prices of Tinplates and Terneplates, it is not considered advisable to substitute Terneplate in place of Tinplates. Both the items are imported for suitable uses and there is little scope of economy in foreign exchange by substituting one for the other.

The question of substituting black sheets for the manufacture of containers was examined during the War years and given up as unworkable, for the following reasons:—

- (i) It is difficult to solder the seams of black plate tins and soldering is much more difficult and lengthy process;
- (ii) Leakage from black plate during storage and while in transit up-country is about four times as much as from tinplate cans;
- (iii) Supply of H.S.D. and Vaporising oil to essential consumers including agriculturists has to be done in tin cans to avoid contamination and loss of efficiency; and
- (iv) Containers made of black sheets are liable to be damaged quicker, thereby causing