

because of the heavy expenditure, especially the foreign exchange, involved on raw film, stores and equipment. It is proposed to take it up later.

Consumption of Cotton by Mills

577. Shri Ram Krishna: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumption of cotton by mills in India during 1957-58 season has fallen;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons for the same?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total consumption of cotton (both Indian and foreign cotton) during 1957-58 season was 49.99 lakh bales as against 52.33 lakh bales in 1956-57. There was thus a decline of 2.34 lakh bales in the total consumption.

(c) The decline in consumption may be attributed to the fact that the production of coarse and medium cloth and yarn during 1957-58 was lower than that of the previous year due to heavy accumulation of stocks on account of lower off-take of these varieties from the mills.

Caustic Soda

578. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of caustic soda produced indigenously per annum;

(c) the quantity of caustic soda imported annually; and

(c) the sale price fixed by Government therefor?

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

(a) 1957—42,653 tons.

1958 (January-September)—41,480 tons.

(b) 1957—66,042 tons.

1958 (January-August)—34,040 tons.

(c) The price of indigenous caustic soda is not controlled. The price of imported Caustic Soda solid imported by the State Trading Corporation has been fixed at Rs. 720 per ton, F.O.R. Port town exclusive of sales tax and other levies.

Fertilizer Factory at Karad (Bombay)

579. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Fertilizer Factory is to be started at Karad in the State of Bombay; and

(b) when the work of construction of the factory is to begin?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ambar Charkha

580. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the net average monthly income of a whole-time worker from Ambar Charkha; and

(b) what are the employment potentials of the Ambar Charkha Scheme?

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

(a) The average monthly income of a whole-time spinner is Rs. 19, i.e., if he works eight hours a day and 25 days in the month.

(b) Upto the end of September, 1958, about 2,15,000 persons have been provided full-time or part-time employment under the Ambar-Charkha Scheme. The future employment potential of the scheme will depend upon the size of the programme that may be sanctioned from time to time.