

granted for Photographic goods against D G S. & D and Railway contracts to Actual Users and as Raw Materials is being maintained separately from January-June, 1957 licensing period onwards and has been incorporated in the statement [See Appendix IV, annexure No 60]

Actual import figures of photographic goods for the years prior to 1957 are not separately available as the items were not specifically shown in the old Import Trade Classification which was in force upto the 31st December, 1956. A statement showing the currency-area-wise import figures of photographic goods for the years 1957 to 1959 (January-May) is also laid on the Table [See Appendix, IV, annexure No 60]. It may be added that actual import figures corresponding to licences granted are not available.

Import of Photographic Goods

2501. Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that any *ex-gratia* licences for the import of photographic materials falling under serial Nos 303 and 305 of Part IV of the Import Trade Control Schedule were granted during the licensing periods January—June, 1956 to April/September, 1958,

(b) if so, the full particulars thereof, and

(c) the authority under which such import licences were allowed?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Detailed particulars of such licences issued are available in the Weekly Bulletins of the Import and Export Trade Control for the relevant periods, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) *Ex-gratia* licences are sometimes granted against applications received in the periods which could not

be disposed of for one reason or the other in the same period or which were once rejected but restored subsequently on appeal and where it is established that laches for delay were on the part of licensing authorities and the applications could not be finalised or were wrongly rejected.

Import of Photographic Goods

2502. Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is insisting on issue of minimum-value licences of Rs 2,500 for Serial Nos 303 and 305 of Part IV in spite of several requests for the removal of the clause by photographic associations from all over India who have pointed out that such imposition has brought about illegal trading in import licences, by *non-bona fide* traders who are now in a position to get a licence for Rs 2,500 even on a stray performance of Rs 101 compared to a regular performance of Rs 1 lakh by a *bona fide* importer, and

(b) whether the Government intend to take any restrictive measure to stop this trading of licences in photographic goods?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The minimum value limit for the grant of quota licences for photographic sensitised materials has been fixed with a view to relieve shortage of these goods in the country and to give incentive to the small Established Importers to establish themselves in this line. The Government have no information regarding the alleged trafficking in quota licences for photographic materials. If any cases of trafficking in import licences come to the notice of the Government, suitable penalties as provided for in the Import and Export Control Act 1947 are imposed on the firms or the individuals concerned.

(b) Does not arise.