

(a) and (b). The party to whom a licence has been granted for setting up a Fertilizer factory in Madhya Pradesh has not yet submitted proposals regarding its location.

Tussar Silk Weavers in South India

1156. Shri Goray: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tussar Silk Weavers in South India have lost the American market for their products; and

(b) whether Government have investigated the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Soap Manufacturers

1157 { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that non-power soap manufacturers have to face frequent scarcity and non-availability of essential raw materials at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to remove these difficulties;

(c) whether it is a fact that indigenous raw materials are dearer than imported materials;

(d) if so, whether the question of providing necessary raw materials at prices comparable to imported materials through the State Trading Corporation for distribution to small units of soap manufacturers has been considered; and

(e) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). No specific complaint regarding scarcity of raw materials has been received. Imports of tallow, coconut oil and

palm oil for non-power units are allowed to the extent of 40 per cent. of their yearly requirements depending upon their past consumption. It is true that imported coconut oil, palm oil and tallow are somewhat cheaper than indigenous raw materials. However, full requirements in respect of these items would not be licensed for import in view of the tight foreign exchange position.

(d) and (e). The matter is under consideration on the basis of a representation received from the All India Non-Power Soap Makers' Association, Baidyanath, Bihar.

Soap Manufacturers

1158 { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that non-power units of soap manufactures have to face hard competition against power units;

(b) whether any representation has been received for imposing a protective duty on power soap units;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The products of the Non-power soap units do not compete with the products manufactured by organised power units.

(b) and (c). A representation from the All-India Non-power Soap Makers Association, Baidyanath, Deogarh, Bihar has been received. The matter is under consideration.

Crop of Coffee

1159. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a record crop of coffee this year;