

tion nobody knows how much it is because it is not seen in the streets very much—is given plenty of advertisements and is it also from the utility point of view?

(No reply.)

*278. [The questioner (Shri M. P. Bhargava) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1623-24 infra.]

REGISTRATION OF NARROW-WIDTH POWER LOOMS

*279. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer given to Starred Question No. 460 in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 1960 and state whether instructions have since been issued to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, not to include the narrow-width machines weaving ribbons, etc. under the purview of the Government Press Note dated 6th November 1960?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): It has been decided that narrow-width ribbon and tape weaving looms should also be registered but the registration fee will be at a nominal rate of Rs. 25 per loom. Suitable instructions have been issued to the Textile Commissioner.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Is it a fact that representations have come from a large number of ribbon weavers, from Bangalore area particularly, that their outturn per day is only Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 and as such they are unable to pay a fee of Rs. 25?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As hon. Members will recall, the original instructions were to charge Rs. 500 per loom. Then we received representations but it was necessary to register them once for all so that the clandestine method of processing and production may be put a stop to. Therefore we decided to register all, but we reduced the rate from Rs. 500 to Rs. 25 for small tape, ribbon and such looms.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It is not a question of reduction of the fee from Rs. 500 to Rs. 25. It can be very well understood that power looms could pay Rs. 500 or any fee that is prescribed. Here it is a case of a small cottage industry where only one-sixteenth H P. is used and only Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 worth of product is the daily outturn. In such cases how can they pay Rs. 25? Then what was the meaning of his statement saying that the narrow-width looms would not be included in the purview of licensing, etc.?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: They were not excluded, as he will find from the previous notification. It is also not correct to say that tape looms and others are non-profitable. They are making good profits throughout. And this is only an *ad hoc* payment to be charged once at the time of registration. It is not a recurring burden on the looms.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know how many of these small power looms have got themselves registered and how many of them are still to be registered?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The figures are yet being collected. As far as power looms are concerned, nearly 80 per cent. of them are reported to have registered themselves.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Keeping in view the hardship which is being felt by the owners of the small looms, is the hon. Minister thinking of reducing this duty and making it not more than Rs. 5 or Rs. 10?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It was after hearing them all, and if I may say so, with more or less their concurrence that Rs. 25 has been levied.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: According to a publication of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, it has been stated here that in the case of ribbon, tape and *newar* looms a fee of Rs. 25 per loom is levied and if it is established that the loom was in existence prior to 1956, the excess amount

of Rs. 10 would be refunded. May I know what is the meaning of it?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: If it was to be refunded but it is very difficult to locate the particular year in which the loom was in existence. It was felt that there would be a lot of confusion in regard to the refund. So, it has been specified at the rate of Rs. 25 per loom subject to refund in excess of Rs. 10 being made where it can be clearly established that the loom in question was in existence prior to 1956.

CONSTRUCTION OF EMBASSY BUILDING IN TOKYO

*280. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have purchased land in Tokyo for the construction of a building for the Indian Embassy there;

(b) if so, what was the price paid for the land; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in the construction of the building?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes; a plot was purchased for the construction of the Chancery (office building).

(b) Rs 10,31,746.

(c) The preliminary plans have been approved and the Mission has been asked to have detailed drawings prepared so that the construction can begin at an early date.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, when it was purchased?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: In 1956.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, how much rent is paid per annum for the Chancery and for the residences of officers who are occupying quarters there?

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SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I want notice for that.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, how it has taken so much time to get the plans finalised, as I understand that this land was taken in 1956?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: First, there was the difficulty that we did not have foreign exchange. Therefore, it was postponed up to 1958. Then, there was some difficulty about the architects. The original architects were not found suitable for undertaking this task and, therefore, it was given to some other architects. Now, the work will proceed.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, why such a long time has been taken to construct the Chancery in Japan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: She has just given the answer.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When the cost of the land is about Rs. 10 lakhs, what would be the cost of the building?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Rs. 11,47,158.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, we are at Rs. 20 lakhs or so. May I know, Sir, how these expenses will be met, whether it will involve some foreign exchange or whether the expenses will be met from our earnings in Japan?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Foreign exchange is involved and the expenditure has been approved by the Finance Ministry.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not a question of getting it approved. When you say foreign exchange difficulties and architects were not . . .

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: At that time.