

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Well, the information that we have got from our men indicates that there were casualties but they do not know how many. The Chinese Government has also said that there were casualties but they have not stated how many.

DR. A. N. BOSE: How did the Indians who were detained respond to the interrogation? Did they make any statement?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The matter is not quite clear. By statement, presumably the hon. Member means a written statement. Orally they answered questions, I suppose. It is possible that some of the constables gave or were made to sign documents about their interrogation. We do not know the exact details about it.

*150. [Postponed to the 1st December, 1959.]

IMPORT POLICY FOR ART SILK

*151. **SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the reason for which the import policy for art silk for the actual users is not announced simultaneously while announcing the Import policy for other items?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): The import policy for art silk yarn for the period October 1959—March 1960 is already announced in the Red Book. The basis of licensing to actual users, however, has not yet been formulated. Bulk of imports is for actual users and the quantum to be licensed for this category of people has to be determined with reference to various factors as local availability from free resources and availability against rupee payments.

It is hoped to announce the basis of licensing for actual users very shortly.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is it not possible to formulate the policy in respect of art silk just as the policy in respect of other items and announce it together?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There are many commodities where the bill of import is rather heavy and if a consumer item is not of a very high priority, there we have to take everything into consideration as to how much we should import from free resources and how much under the particular protocols of rupee payment countries.

ALLOCATION OF RAW MATERIALS TO SMALL INDUSTRIES

*152. **SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any definite policy of Government regarding allocation of raw materials to small industries particularly the newly started industries;

(b) if so, what is that policy and whether it has been sufficiently publicised; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to formulate any policy for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The policy is that on the basis of recommendation of the Director of Industries, small-scale industries whether carrying on their existing industry or newly started industry, will be given the facility of importing raw material to reasonable extent as per the essentiality certificates issued by the State Directors of Industries.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that several industries, even when they produce the certificate from the Director of Industries, have not been able to

import the necessary essential raw materials for two years?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: No, Sir. It was true that in the initial stages when the foreign exchange difficulties cropped up two years back, there were some difficulties being experienced by small-scale as well as large-scale industries but since the recent past, much improvement has taken place and automatically the essentiality certificates issued by the Directors are more or less being respected.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: May I know whether preference is given to consumer industries more especially to those which utilise local or indigenous materials?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is always so. But as the hon. Member is aware, nowadays practically in every industry there is a small portion of imported components. Things like tools, spare parts, etc. are always necessary. Even if 90 per cent depends upon indigenous material, 5 to 10 per cent will have to depend on imported material.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Is it not a fact that most of the workshops have producers' goods and not consumers' goods?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Most of the light engineering industries and small-scale industries are for consumer goods.

INDIANS DETAINED IN U.K. ON FORGED PASSPORTS

*153. **SHRI S. C. DEB:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight Indians were detained in a Police Station at South End, England, on the 24th October, 1959, after landing at the airport there because they were having forged passports; and

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry into the matter, and if so, with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) On or about the date in question, a total of 35 persons were detained by the British Immigration authorities because of their holding forged passports. Government have seen press reports that 8 of them were detained at the Police Station at South End in England but have not specifically verified that fact.

(b) 52 persons, including those referred to above, were sent back to India by the U.K. authorities. On their arrival at Bombay, they were arrested for alleged offences under the Indian Penal Code. Enquiries into their nationality as well as the offences with which they are charged are proceeding.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know how these forged passports were received by these people?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That is a matter which I hope will ultimately come out in the trial of the persons who forged them or used them.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether the Government is taking any step to find out where these forged passports were issued, from India or from any other place?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: This is a racket which has been going on for a number of years and all kinds of steps were taken by us to prevent this, to check it. The steps were fairly effective in so far as our airports were concerned. People used to go by air, by chartering air-liners. Then we found they made other provision—in steamers—to go from Cochin and I am afraid the authorities were caught napping because they were looking at the airports all the time. And these people went out in hundreds, in large numbers; it is not a question of 8 or 52. Hundreds and hundreds of them had gone and they created enormous difficulties for us, not only in the United Kingdom but in Italy and