

(c) what is the up-to-date progress of constructional works by all categories of plot holders?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) The total area disposed of is 319 acres comprising of 233 plots.

(b) the income in the shape of premium and ground rent so far realized is of the order of Rupees two crores.

(c) On 167 plots buildings have come up, on 26 plots the buildings are under construction and the balance 40 plots are still unbuilt upon.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether any specific conditions are attached to the leases that are granted to the different parties?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Sir, the conditions attached vary. Land has been allotted in this Colony to the Missions, the State Governments, the Princes and to business people by negotiation. Land is sold to the private sector people by auction and to others at fixed prices. Certain leases have been drawn up embodying all the relevant conditions.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is a fact that these lessees are not constructing their houses or buildings according to the directions given by the Centre so that it is hampering the progress of the development of the area?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: No, Sir. We have received no such complaint or information.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know how many leases have been given for foreign countries for the construction of diplomatic buildings?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: About thirty countries have been given plots in this area.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: How many of them have constructed buildings so far?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: So far about six Missions have constructed buildings on their plots. About five or six are under construction. The rest have yet to construct—about 19 of them.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know what is the total amount spent so far on the development of this area and what is the value of the land undeveloped?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have not got that information. I am sorry.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know at what rate land has been sold in Chanakyapuri?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The rates differ. As I said, to the embassies for constructing embassy buildings, land has been given at Rs. 40,000 per acre, to the firms at Rs. 1,20,000 per acre—subject to correction—to the Princes at Rs. 1,00,000 per acre and to the State Governments at Rs. 60,000 per acre. To private people, as I have already indicated, it has been sold by public auction.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether all the plots in Chanakyapuri are sold, on the basis of lease or they are sold also as freehold.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: On lease basis, not on freehold basis.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: What is the price fetched at these auctions?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It varies. It is, anyway, from about Rs. 40,000 up to about Rs. 1 lakh odd.

CLOSURE OF COTTON TEXTILE MILLS

*357. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cotton textile mills in the country which closed during the year 1958 and so far in the year 1959;

(b) to what extent production of cotton textiles has been affected by such closures; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revive any of the closed mills through modernization and rationalization schemes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). The number of mills which closed during 1958 was 23 and less than the number which closed during the previous year. Again in 1959 only 4 mills were closed. The estimated loss in production as a result of closures in 1958 is 159,620 bales of cloth and 94,165 bales of yarn. Closures in 1959 involve a loss in production of 3362 bales of cloth and 591 sales of yarn per month.

Government is constantly endeavouring to see that closures are avoided by prompt remedial action. In regard to closed mills also, unless the machinery is out-moded and beyond redemption, facilities are extended through the agency of the National Industries Development Corporation for rehabilitation and modernisation. Out of the 23 mills which closed in 1958, 5 had reopened subsequently. Applications of 3 other closed mills are pending consideration at the hands of the Corporation.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether these mills which have been stated in this statement were closed on account of accumulation of stock at the mills?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, for various reasons. The mills closed for various reasons and the number also fluctuates. As far as these mills are concerned, the accumulation of stock might have been one reason at one time, but not now.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know how many of them have been closed on account of want of machinery because of the import restrictions?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHLINGAM CHETTIAR: I understand that four mills have been closed in Berar recently. May I know, of the total number of mills that have been closed, how many are due to uneconomic output and how many are due to labour trouble?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The statement says that at the moment the closed mills number twentythree and so far as the Berar Mills are concerned, a statement is going to be made after the question hour.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know how many of the mills are closed for more than three years and how many of these mills have closed their one or two shifts in the year 1958-59?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, I have not got the break-up of it. I suppose that the mills closed for more than three years will not be more than four or five.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know if Government propose to take over any of the mills under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, Sir, after investigations, if it is necessary, we will take necessary steps.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: May I know whether the closure of mills is due to competition from the handloom industry?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, no, Sir.

DR. R. B. GOUR: The hon. Minister just now said that after investigations if it is necessary, they will take over some of the mills. What steps are being taken for this investigation?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: First of all, technical surveys are undertaken and completed in some cases and they are being continued in others and in some cases, committees have been formed for investigation under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know whether there is any scheme to start the mills in the near future?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Not all the mills; those some of whom have to go out of action.

CORPORATION TO HANDLE THE INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION OF ART SILK AND EXPORT OF ART SILK FABRICS

*358. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the formation of a Corporation to handle the internal distribution of art silk yarn and also the exports of art silk fabrics is under Government's active consideration; and

(b) if so, in what way various interests of the trade, the industry and Government are sought to be associated in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) One of the items which was considered at the last meeting of the Development Council for art silk fabrics was that a Corporation should be formed to handle the export of art silk fabrics and import and distribution of art silk yarn. The final recommendation of the Development Council has not been received yet.

(b) Details of the interests to be represented can be decided only after the recommendation has been examined and accepted.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what the volume of this trade is so as to justify the formation of the Corporation?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The Corporation is not being formed by the Government. The trade and the industry are thinking on these lines to get over the difficulty of the shortage of raw materials for the manufacture of art silk yarn and of art silk yarn itself.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the activities of the State Trading Corporation in respect of export of art silk yarn is at all to be affected by the formation of the Corporation?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The State Trading Corporation does not handle this commodity.

IMPORT OF NEWSPRINT

*359. SHRI KAILASH BIHARI LALL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported during the last six months;

(b) the purposes for which it was imported and whether the quantity imported was sufficient to satisfy the needs of the consumers;

(c) the number of publishers who applied for licences for newsprint during the last six months;

(d) the number of licences and the tonnage involved that were granted to publishers during the last six months; and

(e) the number of publishers who were refused licences, with the reasons for such refusal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) 687,000 Cwts. during July-December 1958. 112,000 Cwts. during January 1959. Figures of import during later months are not yet available.

(b) To supplement the internal production of newsprint and meet the requirements of consumers as much as possible. It is difficult to say whether the quantity imported was sufficient to meet the requirements.