

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 tonnages 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.

- (c) During October 1958—March 1959 licensing period 1,259 applications were received. Figures about the number of applications made by publishers is not readily available.
- (d) 295 licences for the value of Rs. 252 lakhs were issued during the last licensing period (upto 28th February 1959). Information regarding tonnage involved is not available as only the value is indicated in the licences and not quantity.
- (e) 335 applications (upto 28th February 1959) were rejected for one or more of the following reasons:
- (i) Applications were not submitted by the scheduled date (i.e. 31-1-59);
 - (ii) The applications were made for those books which could be printed on NEPA Newsprint; and
 - (iii) The applicants did not complete the formalities required according to the Policy Book for the licensing period in question.

Here again the number of publishers refused licences is not available.

SHRI KAILASH BIHARI LALL: May I know if the Government is aware that newsprint is sold in the market at a higher rate than what the actual price for it is?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: We have not received any complaint from any State Government or any responsible party so far. The fact is that there is a shortage of newsprint and most of the publishers have got to reduce their anticipated publications.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that the newsprint allotted to one of the big daily papers of Calcutta was found in a paper merchant's shop?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, I take the information. I will investigate it

if further details are given by the hon. Member.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI'S SUGGESTION
TO CREATE AN AUDIT SERVICE

*360. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government have considered Shri Khandubhai Desai's suggestions for establishing an Audit Service composed of Government servants only and to debar private individuals and firms from practising and auditing accounts and balance sheets of public and private limited companies, trusts etc.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): Government's attention has not specifically been drawn to the suggestion reported to have been made by Shri Khandubhai Desai but similar suggestions for nationalisation of the profession of Chartered Accountants made by several persons, including Prof. N. Kaldor, from time to time in the past were examined and considered by Government.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Do I take it that Government is actively considering the suggestion?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir. After consideration in the past, they have decided not to undertake this step.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BARBER IN ASHOKA HOTEL, NEW DELHI

*333. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a barber who served in the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi from 1st to 15th of October, 1958 was paid Rs. 2,200·00 and about Rs. 50·00 per day was spent on his boarding and lodging?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI K. C. REDDY): At the specific request of the Indian