

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.