

APPLICATIONS FOR UTILISATION OF \$150 MILLION LOAN OF U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

***212. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications so far received by Government for the utilisation of the loan of \$150 million granted by the United States Export Import Bank;

(b) the number of applications accepted and the value thereof; and

(c) the number of applications pending before Government and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) The total number of applications received so far for licences out of the allocation for industries is 280.

(b) The number of applications approved by Government is 49 and the value thereof is about Rs. 9.45 crores.

(c) The number of applications pending is 231 and the value thereof is about Rs. 36 crores.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE SUPPLY OF NEWS-PRINTS TO THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imposed restrictions on the supply of newsprints to the newspaper industry, and if so, to what extent;

(b) what are the reasons for such restrictions;

(c) whether it is a fact that representation has been made to Government by the newspaper industry for lifting these restrictions; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take thereon?

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

STATEMENT

(a) Newspaper establishments had agreed to a voluntary cut of 15 per cent on their imports of newsprint but they are free to make good with supplies from Nepa Mills. No cut was however imposed in respect of newspapers whose entitlement was less than 5 tons.

(b) The cut in imports was agreed to conserve foreign exchange.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Representatives of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society pleaded for the restoration of the 15 per cent cut and a Resolution was also passed by the Conference of Publishers of Newspapers to the same effect.

(d) During the current licensing period newspapers have been allowed to secure supplies from Nepa Mills to the extent of the 15 per cent cut, and exemption from the 15 per cent cut has been extended to newspapers entitled to a quota upto 10 tons.

DECLINE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS ON EXPORTS OF ENGINEERING GOODS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange earnings on the export of engineering goods have registered a sharp decline during the quarter ending June last;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for effecting an improvement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) The foreign exchange earnings on the export of engineering goods during the quarter ending June, 1958 have fallen short of