

the Government of India have agreed with the conclusions of the Government of the U.K. for restricting the imports of cloth into that country?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir, there has been no proposal from the U.K Government or from us.

ADVANCE LICENSING OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

•117. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant advance licences in case of certain industries to enable them to plan their purchases from abroad on a long term basis; and

(b) if so, which are these industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO) : (a) and (b). With a view to plan purchases from abroad on long term basis, a scheme to grant advance actual user licences in respect of certain industries for the period October 1958 to March, 1959 is under the consideration of the Government of India. The industries to which this scheme will apply have not yet been categorised.

SHM V. K. DHAGE: What are the items for which this kind of advance licences are proposed to be given?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: These are all matters which are under consideration but it will deal mostly with industrial raw material, particularly scarce non-ferrous metals.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What are the countries for which this will be valid?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: We are planning to allow advance licences and these will be for countries from which we can get the things most conveniently.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the period for which it is proposed to give this advance licence?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The whole idea is under discussion but our idea is to make it valid for six months. In advance of six months, these licences may be given.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRITISH AIR BASE-IN ADDU ATOLL IN THE MALDIVIAN ARCHIPELAGO

•118. SHRI Y. K. DHAGE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether he has received any appeal for sympathy and help from the Maldivian Education Minister in the development connected with the establishment of a British Air Base in Addu Atoll in the Maldivian Archipelago; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Has it come to the knowledge of the Government that negotiations between the Maldivian authorities and the British Government have failed?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Has it come to the knowledge of the Government that a warship is being kept in the main harbour in one of the islands of the Archipelago?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: We have seen newspaper reports about these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She says that she has seen Press reports. You are quoting from newspaper reports but she confines herself to official information.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: That is right, Sir.