

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Since July—September period it has been banned. Before that it was permitted on a restricted scale.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: May I know when Indian spring press buttons will be manufactured?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Within a year or so, looking to the licences that have been granted.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the consumption in the country?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: This is not an item which normally goes into regular consumption, but our estimate is about 24 lakhs gross per annum; that is the demand in the country.

HIGH POWER LABOUR COMMISSION

***445. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a High Power Labour Commission to enquire into the labour conditions and to study the need of changes in the existing labour laws; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being taken in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Is it thought unnecessary for a Labour Commission to be appointed at this time?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes; we do not consider it necessary at this time.

PURCHASE OF SHIPS AND HEAVY MACHINERY FROM POLAND

***446. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ships and other heavy machinery purchased from Poland in the last six months; and

(b) whether it is a fact that we have paid more price for diesel engines imported from Poland as compared to those imported from any other country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) No ships have been purchased from Poland during the last six months. A statement showing imports of machinery from Poland during the period January—April 1957 is laid on the Table of the Sabha. Information for subsequent months is not yet available.

(b) There have been no imports of diesel engines from that country.

STATEMENT

Imports of Heavy Machinery from Poland during January—April 1957.

Information for subsequent months of 1957 is not yet available.

	Value in '000 Rs.
Metal working machinery .	990
Mining construction and other industrial machinery .	566
Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances .	87
TOTAL .	1,643

NOTE.—Imports of ships and diesel engines are nil during January—April 1957.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether we got the machinery under some aid program or as a gift or as a long-term or whether we had to money?

SHRI SATISH CHA: machinery has been Poland.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: My question was whether we paid cash money for this or whether we got it under some aid programme.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There is an arrangement between the State Trading Corporation and Poland under which a rupee account is opened in India. Apart from that, if private industrialists import some machinery, they have to make proper arrangements for foreign exchange.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Before making this deal, did we invite some tender from other countries and if so, what are those countries?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: This was under a bilateral trade agreement and this is neither aid nor any gift from them. The State Trading Corporation enters into a programme with them for export and import and the importers pay cash etc. as per terms of their agreements with their suppliers from Poland.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Have any orders been placed for ships in Poland?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: No, Sir.

*447. [Withdrawn.]

*448. [The questioner (Shri Tajamul Husain) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3296-3297 infra.]

PRODUCTION OF QUALITY GOODS IN SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

*449. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are experiencing any difficulties in increasing the production of quality goods in small scale industries and also in selling them; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to overcome these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by Government to overcome difficulties in the production and marketing of quality goods in Small Scale Industries.

(a) The following difficulties are generally experienced in increasing the production of quality goods in Small Industries and marketing them.

- (i) Lack of modern techniques of production and management.
- (ii) Want of credit facilities on easy terms.
- (iii) Competition from standard products of large scale industries.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government of India to help the small scale industries to overcome their difficulties:—

- (i) Provision of technical assistance through the organisation of the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries—the Regional Small Industries Service Institutes, the Branch Institutes and the Extension Service Centres. Demonstration of modern techniques and processes is given through model and mobile workshops and by foreign experts recruited for the purpose. Technicians are also being sent abroad for observation and studies in modern methods of production. Common facility workshops have been established in order to give common facilities in respect of operations by machines which small units cannot afford to purchase. Evening classes have been started in regional institutes for training workers in business management and blue-print reading.