

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Messrs. Harvey Ltd. are registered in India and have Indian partners in the agency.

BELTING INDUSTRIES FACTORY

*451. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual requirement of belting products;

(b) whether there is any idle capacity in the belting industry, and if so, to what extent;

(c) how many of the belting factories are owned by Indians and how many are owned by non-Indians; and

(d) the amount of capital invested by the non-Indians as against the total amount of capital invested in this industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) (i) Flat belting (*viz.*, hair belting, cotton belting, leather belting and rubber flat belting—1,850 tons (estimated).

(ii) Industrial 'V' belts—120,000 pieces (estimated).

(iii) Fan belts—Not known.

(b) It is not precisely known if there is any idle capacity as such. The rated capacity of existing units according to information furnished at the time of installation is apparently not fully used. The non-use of such capacity varies considerably from unit to unit and no precise figures are available.

(c) One is completely owned by non-Indians. One is partially owned by non-Indians. The rest are wholly owned by Indians.

(d) Full information is not available.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, the hon. Deputy Minister in his answer said that one concern was partially owned by non-Indians. May I know which one he has in mind?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The National Rubber Manufacturers, Ltd. of Calcutta.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that Messrs. Dunlop Rubber Co., and Messrs. Goodyear Tyre Co., are both fully non-Indian concerns?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The Goodyears are partners of the National Rubber Manufacturers, Ltd. of Calcutta and Dunlops have got their own production units.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the idle capacity in the belting industry is due to the fact that the total production is far in excess of the annual requirement?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir. This matter has been gone into by the Tariff Commission and the reasons have been stated by them. As for the adequacy, the imports have got to be permitted, because of the quality of goods required.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that even before permission was granted to Messrs. Goodyears and Messrs. Dunlops and Messrs. Firestone & Co., the Indian units engaged in the production were bringing out a total production in excess of the annual requirements?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: As I said, the Tariff Commission had gone into the question and they offered the indigenous units protection in tariff and Government reduce the imports as and when quality goods are produced.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: Is it not a fact that the beltings produced by Indian concerns are not of the same quality as those imported from foreign

countries and that they do not last even half as long as the foreign beltings?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I would refer the hon. Member to the report of the Tariff Commission on the matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if any representation has been made to the Government by the indigenous Indian companies and whether in that representation complaints have been made against foreign interests?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, I have replied to that in answer to a previous question.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that according to the opinion of the Tariff Commission, the produce of the Indian belting industry is not inferior to the imported products?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, I would again refer the hon. Member to the report of the Tariff Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he means is this. He has not got that report with him and, therefore, cannot say whether they said that Indian beltings were of the same quality or inferior to the other.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, it is not a question of giving tariff protection to the Indian industry. Is it not a fact that even before the licences were granted to the Dunlop Rubber Co., the Goodyear Co. and the Firestone Co., the total annual production here was 2,300 tons whereas the annual demand was only 1,200 tons? And if so, why was permission granted to these giant foreign concerns to produce beltings here?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I have already replied to that question. Certain special types of beltings are manufactured by these concerns.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Out of the total quantity of beltings produced here, how much is produced by the foreign companies?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, I would require notice.

FIRMS IMPORTING PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS

*452. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign capital is associated with all the firms which were granted import licences for photographic goods during the last three years, and if so, to what extent; and

(b) the countries from which each of these firms imported the photographic goods and their quantum and value for the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Precise information is not available.

(b) Statistics of imports by individual licence-holders country-wise are not available.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister will try to collect the information with regard to part (a) of the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks whether your Ministry will kindly undertake the collection of the information in answer to part (a).

SHRI N. KANUNGO: That suggestion will be communicated.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to give import licences only to the concerns with foreign capital? Is it one of the conditions?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, there is no such condition.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Is not such a list of concerns with foreign capital always ready with the Ministry?