

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION
(SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the names of the members and the terms of reference of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 37.]

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether any conclusions have been reached by this Committee?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: No. They held a meeting some time in July and we are expecting a report of the proceedings.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, how many types of Penicillin are now being imported into India and what types are being manufactured or bottled in India?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: As for the first part of the question, it is a question to be answered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and as regards the types of Penicillin that are being bottled here, I should like to have notice.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: What is the technical opinion, Sir, about the Penicillin that is being bottled in India—whether it is satisfactory or not?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: All the reports go to show that it is quite satisfactory.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What are the qualifications of the members of the Committee?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: All the qualifications are mentioned in the statement that has been laid on the Table.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Are all of them Indians or are there foreigners?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: That information is also available in the statement. Three of them are foreigners representing the W.H.O., the UNICEF and the UNTAA.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: By what time will this factory start production?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: "Seeding" would commence by the end of this year.

FOUR-LOOMS SYSTEM IN MILLS

*96. **SHRI D. NARAYAN:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four-loom system is being introduced in place of two-loom system in certain mills of Bombay; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, how much labour is likely to be thrown out of employment as a result of the introduction of that system?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
(SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) The four-loom system has been gradually introduced for a number of years. At present a proposal to change to the four-loom system in nine mills is under conciliation under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act. In Ahmedabad there is an agreement between the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Mazdoor Mahajan as regards the change-over to the four-loom system.

(b) In Bombay if the proposal in regard to nine mills goes through, there may be a reduction of 1,600 altogether in the labour force. But there will be no retrenchment as the pace of conversion will be so arranged that the reduction will be gradual and will be at the rate of the normal wastage of labour, i.e. retirements, resignations etc. In regard to Ahmedabad, conversion will be on the basis of no retrenchment, by working a third shift.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, how many mills in Bombay are now working on the four-loom system?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I understand that 15 mills in the city of Bombay are working four-loom systems for some years now.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: How many labourers lost their employment on account of this?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether apart from the question of retrenchment, the Government has tried to make an assessment of the additional amount of strain which will be placed on the labourers who will be in employment after the introduction of the four-loom system?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I fancy there will be no additional strain because there will be larger facilities.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: When a labourer who was working two looms is asked to work four looms at the same time, how is it that the hon. Minister says that there will be no additional strain?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is a question of opinion. My hon. friend knows that whenever there is expansion of the working of a machine, facilities are also larger.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether there is any measure to compensate the workers for this extra work?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I do not accept the assumption underlying the question.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Are any applications still pending for permission to change over from two to four?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have no figures here, but there are not many, I think.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: There was some news in the papers that there is a proposal under which certain mills

are going to change over from two to four and as a result 11,400 labourers will be out of employment.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That is absolutely exaggerated.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, if the long period effects of this change-over would be beneficial to the country, to the industry and to the labour force in general?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes; if it is done without affecting the problem of labour employment it is bound to be beneficial and that is the way we propose to follow.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Do the Government think that there is the possibility of finding employment for the labourers who would be displaced by this change-over?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether as a result of increased production further numbers of labourers will not be retrenched in the near future?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir. The idea is to absorb them as much as possible before any such steps are taken.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is the Government aware that the weavers thrown out of employment when given some other work are not satisfied with the new work?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Unless there is an attempt to create dissatisfaction among them, normally they should be satisfied.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is not my hon. friend aware that last autumn because of a slight increase in production large numbers of labourers were thrown out of employment by the textile magnates?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I do not understand my hon. friend's question.

BABU GOPINATH SINGH: Is it a fact that there is shortage of skilled workmen in the textile industry?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There are no complaints about that.

MEDICINAL USE OF "AKILPORI" PLANT

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a plant called 'AKILPORI' (in Malayalam), which is abundant in the hilly parts of the country is being exported to foreign countries for some medicinal preparations;

(b) if so, what has been the average quantity and value of such exports from January to June 1954; and

(c) the purpose for which this plant is being utilized by the importing countries?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Exports of *akilpori* were brought under export control with effect from 14th January 1954. From 21st April 1954, its export has been banned, but shipments are being permitted only against firm commitments made prior to the ban.

(b) About 45 tons valued at approximately Rs. 4,25,000.

(c) The plant is mainly used in the manufacture of drugs for treatment of high-blood pressure, insanity and other mental conditions.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Do the Government propose to take any measure to manufacture these medicines here?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Government have no immediate idea of taking over the manufacture of these medicines. There is already a firm doing it efficiently.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Are the Government aware that this medicine is

widely used in our parts for the treatment of poisonous snake-bites?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Our information is that it is used for high-blood pressure, insanity and other mental conditions. If my hon. friend has any more information, he may convey it to the doctors.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Drug Research Institute is conducting any experiments on this medicine?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I should like my hon. friend to address that question to the Health Minister.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Are the Government aware of the fact that this plant is exported at a very cheap cost and the medicines extracted from this plant are imported at very high prices?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is not a fact that extracts of this medicine are imported into India. The question really was whether in view of the fact that there was a limited production of the raw material, it was desirable to export this medicine. That was the question. There is no question of importing extracts referred to.

HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS IN MARSHALL ISLANDS

***98. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been asked to support the appeal made by the people of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations Organization to prevent the United States of America from conducting Hydrogen bomb tests in those islands;

(b) if so, whether India has supported the appeal; and

(c) what line of approach India has suggested to the United Nations Organization in the matter?