

he was using Indian made blades. I would like to know what has happened to those blades and how much progress there has been made in the manufacture of blades in India.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I throw away the blades that I use. Indian manufacture is progressing. I recently paid a visit to a factory in Bombay and I found that this industry has been recording progress.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: I am afraid I have to request you to repeat the answer because not a word has been audible.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: My friend asked as to what happened to the razor blades.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....which you personally use and you said that you throw them away.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: As regards the next point, I have told the House that the industry is showing some progress. Recently I had occasion to visit a factory. They are trying to adopt modern methods of manufacture and day by day, local production is improving though it could not stand comparison with the best of foreign production.

#### PRODUCTION AT SINDRI FERTILISER FACTORY

\*634. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state what has been the production of fertilisers at Sindri Fertiliser Factory during each month since January 1954?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the Council.

#### Statement

1954	Monthly Production
January	... 18,527 tons
February	... 17,853 "
March	... 21,203 "
April	... 21,544 "

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know the capacity of the factory and whether production has been.....

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The factory is designed to produce.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not finished the question. "What is the capacity of the factory and ....."

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: .....whether this production has been to the full capacity.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The factory is designed to produce about 960 tons per day and, as yet, we have not reached that target.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that this factory is capable of producing one thousand tons per day? Is it also not a fact that in the past it produced to that extent but that there were some troubles with the plant as a result of which the plant has failed you and that accounts for the reduction to this extent?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It is true, Sir, that some time in 1953—in the beginning of 1953—.....

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: We can't hear on this side.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: .....the factory produced a thousand tons per day—in the month of February, to be exact, but that amount of production was explained by the large accumulation of stocks of ammonia in the previous months. So, it was only a very exceptional situation, and I think certain difficulties which have cropped up in the plant will have to be tackled. We have consulted the original consultants who helped us in the erection of this plant, namely the Chemical Construction Company; they have deputed four engineers who have gone into the question thoroughly and have made certain recommendations. The Board of

Management is dealing with these recommendations and it is hoped that after satisfactory steps have been taken, it would be possible to increase production.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Not a word was audible, Sir.

SHRI T. PANDE: The mike is not working properly, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: "The mike is not working properly". That is what I am told.

BEGAM AIZAZ RASUL: We can't hear at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All that Mr. Reddy said was that there was an exceptional month which produced a thousand tons a day—that is February of last year; normally, the target is 900 tons per day. There have been some failures. The original makers were called upon to enquire. A committee is investigating and, after that, it is expected to reach up again the old target.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the fertilisers manufactured by the Sindri Factory are not available in Madras State in sufficient quantities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: 1,000 was produced in an exceptional month, and 900 is being produced now as a result of failure of plant. What is the target of the factory according to Government per month?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have answered that question already.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 900 tons per day is the target.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the plant producing even 900 tons per day?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The production is stabilised at about 700 tons a day. It may be that sometimes there was a production of about 850 tons.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN: What was the average production during the last year?

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: That was what I wanted to know.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: For the last year I cannot give the average immediately. It has to be calculated.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: What was the production in the months of January, February and March?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have been given here in the statement. January, 18,527; February, 17,853 and March, 21,203.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN: As regards capacity, may I know whether this question was settled at the time the trial of the machinery was undertaken?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I do not quite follow the question. Sir. The capacity was settled at the time the factory began working, but it is a question of time before we can reach the target.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN: When will that target of production be achieved?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I cannot say definitely.

■ SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Are the production figures given based on a 25 day month or a 30 day month?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: 30 day month.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: That does not work out to 900 tons a day?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course not.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether the accumulated stock has been disposed of?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, it is being disposed of. The present stock is about 40,000 tons. The stock was much higher some time back.

#### i TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S.S.R.

\*635. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether any transactions have so far taken place under the Trade Agreement with the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Yes, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What transactions have taken place? Will the hon. Minister give some indication?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have got the figures with me for the exports in December 1953, January, February and March of this year, and for this period our exports have been to the tune of about Rs. 1,04,00,000 and our imports from the U.S.S.R. have been about Rs. 29,00,000.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Has the trade between U.S.S.R. and India been stepped up as a result of this agreement?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, it is much too early to anticipate what will happen during the year, but recently, for instance, black pepper to the tune of Rs. 92,60,000 has gone to U.S.S.R. It will be time for us to judge of the agreement when the whole year is out.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know if any heavy machinery and plant has been imported?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Recently we were informed that some machinery of a particular type was available. We have circularised the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and

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Industry in that regard and the Food Ministry is going in for five tractors.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What steps have Government taken under this agreement to see if the tobacco produced in the South, especially in Guntur district can be sold in the Soviet Union?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, it is our constant endeavour to develop the export of tobacco or anything else not only with regard to the U.S.S.R. but with regard to everybody else. We keep our export licences, as the hon. Member knows, open to all countries in the sterling area or the dollar area as the case may be, and then there is always an effort going on through our diplomatic and commercial channels to see as to where the market is most advantageous to us.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the Government not aware that one of the biggest obstacles for improving trade even under this agreement is that there is no fixed quantitative arrangement?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: So far as we are concerned we have come to the deliberate conclusion that any fixation of quantity will rather retard our trade than forward it. Our imports are based on a multilateral basis by which I mean that when we give an import licence, we enable the licensee to import from any country he likes and when we give an export licence it is available for any country which would be the best from our point of view.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: The hon. Minister gave the figures that the exports to the Soviet Union are to the extent of one crore and odd whereas imports from the Soviet Union are twenty-nine lakhs worth. How long does the Government think this kind of process will go on and whether it is conducive to the development of our own trade?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It may be that at one time our exports may