

BAN ON THE IMPORT OF MATERIALS USED AS AIDS TO VISUAL EDUCATION

*222. DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Bharat Kala Samity (Art Advisory Committee) for the exemption of materials and appliances used as aids to visual education in general and art education in particular—such as blocks, plates, reproductions of original works of art in the form of post cards, prints, replicas and photographs, etc. from customs duty;

(b) the amount of customs duty annually recovered from the import of such materials and appliances; and

(c) whether Government propose to remove the restrictions on the import of such materials and appliances and to exempt them from customs duty in the interest of expansion of education?

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

(b) Statistics are not available.

(c) Applications for import of most of these items are considered on merits. For the rest the present import quotas are already on a liberal scale

The customs duty on these items has been reduced to an appreciable extent.

COAL MINES IN INDIA

*223. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coal mines in India; and

(b) how many coal mines are controlled and owned by foreigners; and what is the percentage of coal produced in those mines to the total production of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) 829.

(b) It is presumed that the hon. Member is thinking of non-Indian nationals. 93 working collieries are managed by firms of non-Indian nationals, and their production in 1952 worked out to 38 per cent. of the total coal production of the country.

It would be very difficult to gather information about the extent of non-Indian ownership of various collieries. This would involve a detailed scrutiny of the shareholding of the concerned companies in thousands of shares. Information therefore regarding production by those collieries which are owned wholly or predominantly by non-Indian nationals is not readily available.

NEW INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS

*224. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for the grant of licences to start new industrial undertakings with the particulars of such industries,

(b) the number of applications received for the grant of licences for the expansion of industrial undertakings during the year 1953; and

(c) the number of applications disposed of in each of those categories and the results of such disposal?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a), (b) and (c). A statement giving the required details in respect of all applications for licences, received up to 31st July 1953 is placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix V, Annexure No. 53.]

SHORT SUPPLY OF CEMENT

*225. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that adequate quantities of cement have not been available to the public for the last six months;