

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Was this not anticipated in the earlier project report?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It was anticipated and it was mentioned that it might be silted up within 17 years but on the preliminary data with the Committee the cost worked out to Rs. 28 crores. They also suggested steps to be taken to keep the silt under check. But on further studies, it was found that only 5 to 10 per cent. of the silt could be checked and not more, and that would not in any appreciable manner enhance the life of the dam.

IMPORT OF WATCHES

*200. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirements of watches in India; and

(b) the countries from which these are imported?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Precise information is not available.

(b) Mainly from Switzerland.

And I should add, Sir, that the figure for the year 1952-53 was between the range of about Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 lakhs.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Does the Government know that large numbers of watches are smuggled into India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Unfortunately we know.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Is it a fact that one of the reasons is the small number of import licences granted by the Government of India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Part of the reason is our limited imports necessitated by the foreign exchange difficulties.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: How many watch-making factories do we have in India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, there is only one factory about which a scheme has been received. The name of the concern is Collins & Co., Bombay.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Will the Government think it advisable to requisition the services of watch-making experts in order to train Indians here to establish watch-making factories and to learn the art of watch-making?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have no immediate scheme for training Indian personnel, but if any private enterprise takes up a scheme of manufacturing watches, we shall be happy to give them all possible assistance.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: May I know which factor deters the Government from taking up this matter?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The reasons deterring are that we are just at the moment unable to take up too many ventures on hand.

DR. P. C. MITRA: How many import licences have been granted in the year 1952-53?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The imports are valued at Rs. 52,66,393.

DR. P. C. MITRA: How many licences were given?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I can give here the value of the imports; I cannot give the total number of licences. I can also give the total number of watches imported which was 2,13,960.

DR. P. C. MITRA: How many import licences were granted?

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

DR. P. C. MITRA: Were the licences granted to the firms who used to get them before or to new ones?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: They were granted to established importers.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Will the Government kindly state whether a scheme from Indore was received from one Mr. Kasture?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am sorry that my friend has mentioned it; his scheme was of a very elementary nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you say all that? Was it received or not?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It was received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: What is the consideration which the scheme is receiving from the Government?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have already answered that, Sir.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: I have not heard it.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, the scheme was of a very elementary character and we did not think it practicable to pursue that matter.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Sir, may I know the number of importers granted licences in 1953?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice for that, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the amount for which import licences were granted?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The amount involved was Rs. 57,33,000 and the number of watches was 26,17,197.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know what is the output of the Bombay factory according to the scheme submitted?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have not got figures of the plan, Sir.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know how many watches were smuggled last year?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No statistics are available, Sir.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know whether the Government is aware that a Swiss paper called "The Watch-Maker" has said that most of the contraband trade is done through the air-lines?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir, that is not our information; our information is that most of the contraband stuff comes from Goa and Pondicherry.

I would like to add, in correction of my earlier figures given in respect of imports for 1952-53, that the number actually imported was 2,13,960 and the value is Rs. 52,66,393.

COST OF PRODUCTION PER TON OF AMMONIUM SULPHATE

*201. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of production per ton of ammonium sulphate in Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., at the existing level of its production;

(b) whether Government will lay a copy of each of the agreements concluded with Messrs. Associated Cement Companies Ltd. and Messrs. Carl Still on the Table of the Council; and

(c) how the proposed distribution agency of the fertilizers is going to be set up?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) It is not normal to disclose the actual cost of production of articles in commercial concerns and it is not desirable to publicise the cost of production of ammonium sulphate in the Sindri Factory.

(b) Government have not concluded any agreement with either the Associated Cement Company Ltd., or M/s.