

import of such Japanese machinery into India so that our short staple 'Indian cotton could also be made to produce fine cloth here?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We should heartily promote that idea if somebody is there to import.

IMPORT OF FOOT-WEAR

*621. SHRI RAHMATH ULLAH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to stop the import of foot-wear into India; and

(b) if so, what are these steps?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Import of foot-wear into India was banned till 3rd March 1953. From 1st March import duty on foot-wear was raised to 100 per cent, ad *valorem* or Rs. 1-8-0 per pair whichever is higher and simultaneously a token import of 10 per cent, of half of best year's imports has been allowed for the January-June 1953 period.

(b) Question does not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know after putting this customs duty on the import of foot-wear, whether they have also begun to come in?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I presume so, Sir. I have not the figures with me.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the kinds of foot-wear that are specially wanted in India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The fact that the import is only token—to the extent of 10 per cent.—does show that we do not think that larger amounts should come in. It is a question of importing a little of the quality stuff in order to promote improvement of the stuff in our own country, as also adding a little wanted revenue to the Exchequer.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: In view of the fact that India is the largest exporter of hides and skins, will Government consider the advisability of encouraging export of foot-wear?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, we are encouraging exports.

9 A.M.

IMPORT OF CAPITAL GOODS FROM RUSSIA

*622. SHRI RAHMATH ULLAH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the capital goods imported into India from Russia in the year 1952-53; and

(b) what is the percentage of these goods to the total imports into India the same year from all foreign countries?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Council.

STATEMENT

Description and value of capital goods imported into India from Russia during 1952-53 (April-December 1952) and its percentage to the total imports from other countries.

(Approximate value in '000 Rs.).

I. Plant and machinery from Russia—			
1. Agricultural machinery	5		
2. Pumping machinery.	24		
3. Textile machinery	6		
4. Machinery, other sorts	1,65	2.00	
II. Plant and machinery from countries other than Russia.			
		62,58,00	
III. Grand total of imports of plant and machinery.			
		62,60,00	
IV. Percentage of imports from Russia to imports from all foreign countries.			
			.03 %