

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—

i. 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 %

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, why is it that only -03 per cent, is imported from Russia? Is it that Russia is not able to supply or is it that India is not willing to take?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It might be either or it might be both.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the reasons?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, as was made clear on the floor of the House earlier, we keep our import licences open to all the countries but perhaps the importers do not like to import either on grounds of merit or on grounds of some trade terms. We are not in a position to explain why it is only to the extent of -03 per cent, from Russia. People have chosen to import only that much from Russia.

PRODUCTION OF DHOTIES AND SARIES

*623. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have made any representation for removing the restriction on the production of dhoties and sarees altogether;

(b) if so, when this representation was made; and

(c) what has been the Government of India's decision on that representation?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Yes, so far as dhoties are concerned.

(b) A continuous correspondence is going on between the West Bengal Government and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on this question and I believe the first communication was dated the 18th December 1952.

(c) The Government have not decided to remove these restrictions.

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SHRI B. RATH: Am I to understand that the West Bengal textile mills

are not able to produce any other variety of cloth than these dhoties?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, that is so. This is the reason urged that some of the Bengal mills have white looms particularly suitable for the manufacture of dhoties. Now, we have asked the Bengal Government to ask the mills to make representations in their individual capacity. So in any suitable case we might, if we think fit, relax the condition.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What has been the relaxation already allowed to the Bengal mills?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No relaxation.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is it the same as the original order of 60 per cent.?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should think so.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Has any other State made any representation for some relaxation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, the Governments of U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa have also made similar representations.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, is the hon. Minister aware of the statement made by the Minister for Commerce and Industry that certain relaxations were allowed to Bengal mills and that they wanted some more and that is still under consideration? That is one. Secondly, have the Government received any representation from the Bengal Mill-Owners' Association which represents all the mills in Bengal?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. With regard to the first, I shall verify that and see for any correction in my statement. Regarding the second question, it is a fact that the Bengal Mill-owners' Association has made a representation and according to my present information, we have informed them to ask the mills to