

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.

u

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

make individual representations in case of any particular cases.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I know the reason for asking for individual representations inasmuch as the mills in Bengal who are members of that Association suffer from the same disability?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Not every mill to the same extent and in the same manner

SHRI B. RATH: May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a news comment of *Amrit Bazar Patrika* of 15th March 1953 which states that on a strong representation by the State Government, however, the Central Government has permitted the mills of that State to produce dhoties and sarees to the extent of 80 per cent, of their production in 1951-52? Now the hon. Minister says that no relaxation has been made and the mills are being allowed to produce only 60 per cent. I would like to know which statement is correct. Is it not a fact that *on* the representation from the State Government, the Government of India has allowed relaxation up to 80 per cent.?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am grateful to the hon. Member for the correction. That is so.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Has the Government made any rules and regulations to check the mills which will not make dhoties and sarees but long pieces of dhoti cloth and saree cloth?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The usual mechanism of checking is there but still sometimes something happens.

*624. [Withdrawn.]

PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

*625. SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress achieved by the community projects in the

different States was reviewed in the conference of the Development Commissioners held recently;

(b) whether the working of the projects in any of the States was found unsatisfactory; if so, in which States;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken to remedy the defects; and

(d) whether any steps are devised to co-ordinate the development work of the (i) States; (ii) Local Boards; and (iii) Community Projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; in Mysore, Delhi, Mani-pur, Himachal Pradesh and Ajmer.

(c) This has been brought to the notice of the respective State Governments with a view to their remedying defects.

(d) Yes.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Does the Government consider that for a proper implementation of the programmes of work under Community Projects extensive delegation of powers to the development authorities is absolutely necessary?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, the Government does consider it necessary and in the recent conference of the Development Commissioners this question was taken up and it was decided that powers should be delegated to these officers.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Has the Madras Government delegated any of its powers regarding the administrative sanction or the financial sanction, to the district Collectors or the Project Officers? If so, when and to what extent and what are the limitations placed on the exercise of those powers?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The Development Commissioners' Conference was held from 16th to 19th. Decisions were taken on the 19th Decern-