

countries to interfere in this dispute with South Africa ?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA : I would like to have notice of that.

IMPORT OF JUTE

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

(a) the quantity of jute imported from Pakistan in 1951; and

(b) the quantity of jute agreed upon for import during the current year; and the quantity received so far ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) 2,223,463 bales.

(b) Under the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement of the 26th February 1951, a quantity of 25 lakh bales was provided for import during the period from the 1st July 1951 to the 7th August 1952. Against this, a quantity of 13 • 81 lakh bales was received. The current Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement does not include jute and its import is regulated by licensing. Actual arrival of raw jute from Pakistan from the 8th August to the end of November 1952 was 490,430 bales only.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know if the balance of the jute that was allotted would be available for import to India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : It is available for import if anybody wants to import, but it is not available for export from Pakistan.

PRODUCTION OF CLOTH

*216. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how many bales of cotton are required by India on an average per year for the production of cloth in the textile mills and handlooms ;

(b) the output of cloth during the year 1951 and that estimated for the current year ; and

(c) how many bales of cotton are required to be imported on an average per year for superfine varieties of cloth and for mixing ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Part (a)—4,000,000 to [4,200,000 bales- of 400 lbs. each at present.

Part (b)—4,076 million yards during 1951. 4,600 million yards during 1952. (estimated).

Part (c)—On an average 700,000 to 800,000 bales per year of foreign cotton for the production of fine and superfine cloth. Separate figures for the requirements of superfine cloth cannot be given as the production of this kind of cloth varies according to such factors" as the demand by the consumers, price of the cotton required, etc.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know the actual output of cotton bales at the time of the Partition and what would that be in 1955-56 ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : In 1947-48, I find that production was 31,90,000 bales ; in 1948-49, 23 lakh bales ; in 1949-50, 29,71,000 bales; in 1950-51, 33,00,000 bales. In 1951-52 production is estimated to be 38,93,000 bales, probably 35 lakh bales.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : I want the estimate for 1955-56.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I would like to have notice of it.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it possible for us to reduce to the minimum the import of cotton of the fine and superfine varieties after the implementation of the Five Year Plan ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should think so. But I find, subject to correction, that even the Five Year Plan contemplates certain imports, of fine and superfine cotton.

JUTE AND MESTA

*2i7. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum number of bales of jute and mesta required for our mills annually; and

(b) what is our present production of jute and mesta ?

THE MINISTER FOR-COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) 6 million Lales of 400 lbs. each of jute are required on the basis of present working hours.

(Jb) Total production during 1951-52 was 4-68 million bales. Separate figures of production of mesta are not available.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : What are the countries from which they are imported ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : From Pakistan and from Nepal—about 40,000 bales.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR May I know whether there is any country outside India that manufactures hessian cloth ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, there are many other countries. In America they are using this for manufacturing purposes.

SHRI M. ROUFIQUE : Is it a fact that 45 bales out of every 100 are produced by the State of Assam ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should like to have notice for separate figures for Assam.

PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL POPULATION

*2i8. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : (a) Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state from how many All India Radio Stations special programmes for rural population are arranged and broadcast ?

(b) How many farm-forum centres are there in different States ?

(c) Has any action been taken by Government to increase the number of these centres ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Special programmes for the rural population are broadcast from all stations of All India Radio except Ahmedabad.

(b) Bombay—104

Madras—89 U.

P.—17 Delhi—

25

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know from the hon. Minister whether these farm-forum centres for the Bombay State are increasing or decreasing ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I hope they are increasing.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it contemplated to produce cheap radio sets for rural population ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I understand that their production is under contemplation.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it on account of the high cost of the sets that farm-forum centres are not increasing ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I think, it is both on account of the high cost of the radio sets and the high cost of materials.

MACHINERY FOR THE FORMULATION OF PLANS

♦219. SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present machinery for the formulation of plans at State and Central levels ; and