

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Are we to pay for the designs also, in addition to the 4 per cent, that you have bargained to pay ?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAJAIN : I do not think so.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : What is the expected turnover per year on which the 4 per cent, is to be given.

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAJAIN : The procedure whereby the turnover is to be arrived at is also laid down by the agreement itself. As far as I knew, it is the intention of the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., to build about 25 to 30 ships in the course of the next five years, and in calculating the turnover, all the expenditure involved in the shipyard will be taken into consideration.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know whether the present designing and estimating office is responsible for original designs, or merely for copies of standard designs ?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAJAIN : I could not answer that question. As far as I know, they may be taking some assistance from some other similar design, made by other concerns. But certainly what has been produced by our designing office which is at present in existence is something for which all the credit must go to them.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : The hon. Minister said that the French experts would try and reinforce our personnel in the designing office. May I know whether this reinforcement would mean training of our own personnel to see that they submit original designs for ships and not mere copies of designs of standard ships ?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAJAIN : Yes, Sir. It is a part of the agreement that the French experts should train our people in the shipyard itself, and also arrange for their training in France in their own works and also elsewhere in France.

PRODUCTION OF KYANITE

*20Q. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : (a) Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state what is the total quantity of kyanite produced in India annually since 1947-48 and up to October 1952 ?

(b) What is the total quantity of kyanite produced in Madras State during the same period ?

(c) How much kyanite has been used in India out of the total quantity so produced in the country ?

(d) What is the quantity of kyanite exported during the period referred to in part (a) and to which countries ?

(e) What is the value of our exports, and what is the custom's earning on these exports ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a), (b), (d) and (e). Two statements giving the required information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexures Nos. 57 and 58.]

(c) About 4,000 tons annually.

I should add, under (a) and (b), that the total production of kyanite in India and Madras in 1951 was 42,301 and 446 tons respectively.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is the Government aware that kyanite is one of the materials on the stockpiling list of the United States ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I am not aware, but it is likely.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Then why does not the Government impose some export duty and earn some revenue from it ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We have not considered it necessary.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Why does the Government not consider it necessary ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Because it is not necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No arguments.

SAFETY RAZOR BLADES

*210. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in the manufacture of safety razor blades ;

(b) if not, the names of the countries from which this article is imported; and

(c) what has been the dollar and sterling value of such imports during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) It is a difficult question to answer and Government can offer no opinion on this matter.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 59.]

By way of clarification of my answer to (a), I should add that the normal estimated demand is about 100 million in number of razor blades a year.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : From the table which the hon. Minister has been pleased to lay on the Table, it appears that we pay nearly Rs. 85 lakhs to get these razor blades from other countries. Are we producing as many as are required in India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The production capacity, I am happy to say, is about 200 million razor blades but the actual production during 1952—taking only two big concerns producing razor blades—was as follows: Messrs. Hind Razors Ltd., Bombay : 2,404,200 ; and Messrs. Harbanslal Malhotra, Calcutta : 6,640,000. But the production is increasing.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Have imports been stopped now ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Imports have been stopped because there are more stocks than are needed.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : What is the stock position now ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The stock position is that there are much more stocks than are required, because we imported in 1950-51 a little over-much—224 million blades. The stock position is quite satisfactory, and therefore we have stopped imports during the current period.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Does it mean that there is a likelihood of licensing imports again after some time ?

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Does it mean that there is a likelihood of some imports again after some time ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : That is a speculative question which I am not prepared to answer.

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SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Will the hon. Minister for Commerce recommend to us the brand of the S I blades which we may use ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I have been using Indian blades myself and I am quite sure that the hon. Member can use those without any

SHRI B. C. CHOSE : Would the hon. Minister explain the reasons why production is not up to capacity ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : One of the Indian razor blades was quite satisfactory in other matters, but till recently it was unsatisfactory in the cutting edges. That proved unsatisfactory to the consumers, there was a little consumer's prejudice against it. Now we are taking steps to import machinery necessary for that correction also. Otherwise, all other factors are quite satisfactory.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Has any assistance whatsoever been given by Government to this industry ?