

(a) the number of ordnance factories in India in 1946 and in 1952;

(b) the number of such factories closed during 1946 to date; and

(c) the number of such factories started during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a) The number of ordnance factories in India in 1946 was 27. The number existing in 1952 is 20.

(b) 7, of which 6 were not actually independent production units but were fabricating centres for components of clothing items and leather items received from other factories. The seventh was closed down, but was not actually in production even during the war.

There were three other factories of which 2 were transferred to other departments of the Central Government and one to a State Government. One Factory went to Pakistan on partition. This was the Parachute Factory, Lahore.

(c) 3 new factories have been started and one factory has been taken over from another Ministry and put in full commission.

STERLING BALANCES

*292. SHRI B. GUPTA : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent up-to-date out of India's sterling balances accumulated during the war years in Britain;

(b) the exact amount utilised for meeting the deficit in India's trade balance; and

(c) the amount spent on—

(i) the import of machineries, and

(ii) the import of consumers' goods, out of the such sterling balances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) :

(a) Between 5th April 1946, i.e., shortly after 1st April 1946, the official date of termination of hostilities, and the 5th December 1952 an amount of Rs. 1,035 crores has been spent out of India's sterling balances.

(b) It is not possible to say how much has been utilised for meeting the deficit in India's trade balance, as separate accounts of sterling balances utilised individually for meeting trade deficits and invisible transactions on current and capital account are not maintained. However, the deficit on trade account from January 1946 to September 1952, for which period alone figures are available, was approximately Rs. 657 crores.

(c) Imports are financed not merely from accumulated sterling balances but also from current foreign exchange earnings. It is also not possible to say how much sterling has been spent on the import of machinery or consumer goods, as trade accounts are not classified into such categories as consumer's goods and non-consumer's goods. However, a broad survey indicates that payments for import of machinery during January 1946/August 1952, for which period alone figures are available, amounted to approximately Rs. 445 crores and consumer goods of the value of Rs. 1,074 crores were imported during the period July 1948 to September 1952.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

*293. SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE : Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to bring back monuments and pictures of archaeological importance which were taken away by the British Government from India and are at present kept in the British Museum?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MATAVIYA) : During the last hundred and fifty year