

may be even according to them, the others are political. What they said or aimed at there I cannot say except that presumably they were against the Portuguese Government.

MILLS PRODUCING FILTER CLOTH

*313. SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of mills producing filter cloth in India with their annual production capacity ;

(b) the quantity of filter cloth produced by each of these mills during the last three years ;

(c) the quantity of filter cloth consumed in India during the last three years ;

(d) the quantity of filter cloth exported from India with the names of the countries where exported and of the exporters during the last three years ; and

(e) the present stock of filter cloth held by the mills in India ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) and (b). Statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 91]. From the production figures for the four years, the annual capacity may roughly be taken at 9 lakh yards.

(c) The information is not available.

(d) Filter cloth was treated as a general item of cotton piece goods until December, 1951, and no separate figures of its export are available.

(e) The information is not available.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : May I know whether the Government are aware that certain manufacturers of filter cloth have not been producing to the maximum capacity for want of sufficient orders inside the country

and in consequence they have got a number of looms standing idle ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should like to have notice of that.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : May I know whether Government are aware that there have been demands for filter cloth from Pakistan but the producers in India have found it difficult to accept them due to restrictions imposed by the Textile authorities ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : As the hon. Member is aware he himself brought to me an instance where one concern in Pakistan wanted filter cloth from this country and I think he doubtlessly knows also that after he made that representation, on the 6th December, 1952 it was announced to the trade that filter cloth would be allowed to be exported to all permissible destinations excepting certain countries but including Pakistan.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL : May I know whether Government proposes to allow unrestricted export of filter cloth in the future to enable us to have more foreign exchange in view of our surplus production capacity ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : With great respect, I may say that it is a speculative question. I cannot answer that.

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER

*314. DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of paper of different varieties manufactured in India during the years from 1946 to 1952 ;

(b) the quantity of paper of different varieties imported during the said period ;

(c) the figures of consumption of paper per head per year in India and the corresponding figures of consumption of paper per head per year in the

United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, Western Germany, France, Italy and Egypt;

(d) what steps Government propose to take towards increase of consumption of paper in the country to help in the spread of literacy, education and culture ; and

(e) whether Government propose to introduce legislation to declare paper to be essential for the life of the community for the purpose of article 286 (3) of the Constitution ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 92.]

(c) The consumption of paper in India is estimated at 1.39 lbs. per head per annum.

Corresponding figures in respect of other countries are not readily available.

(d) There is no restriction placed on the consumption of paper.

(e) No, Sir.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Now I find there is some further information about foreign consumption. The Panel on Paper, Pulp, Board and Chemical Cotton Industries estimated that the *per capita* consumption of paper in India was only 1 lb. in 1939 as compared with 152 lbs. in the U. K. and 174.4 lbs. in the U. S. A. in 1935 and 174.7 lbs. in Canada in 1937. That is all the information I have.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI : May I be permitted to supplement the answer given by the hon. Minister ? Because I want a fuller answer. According to my information the consumption figures are for U. S. A. 360 lbs. India 3 lbs. and Egypt 4 lbs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give the information and he accepts it.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I accept them subject to scrutiny.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI : On the basis of that I wish to put a supplementary question. Is it a fact that under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act of 1946, paper was rendered tax free and if so, why should that tax be retained or reimposed on paper in peace time when the consumption of paper is very necessary for educational and cultural purposes ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The goods protected under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act do not include paper but includes exercise books, books and periodicals. We have thought it necessary to have a revenue duty on paper. It is not a protective duty.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI : Does not the tax on paper in the shape of sales tax impede the spread of literacy in the country ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : We have not received complaints in that direction so far. So far as I know, these are complaints that in the various schools the teachers are insisting on more exercise books and there is a complaint from the consumers but we have received no complaints about the text books.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : May I know what is the production of hand-made paper in India ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is another question.

SHRI B. GUPTA : May I know if some paper imported from abroad worth a few lakhs of rupees is still lying uncleared ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : It is possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question hour is over.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : One minute more.

AN HON. MEMBER : Accord-
ing to this clock there is still one more
minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway you
have spent that one minute.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : You
have saved the hon. Minister for
Rehabilitation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The ques-
tion hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CLAIMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM RURAL AREAS

*315. LT. COL. J. S. MANN : Will
the Minister of REHABILITATION be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large
number of property claims of displaced
persons from rural areas of West
Pakistan are being rejected *in toto* on
the ground: (i) that they have been
allotted land less than 4 acres and
that their claims have been assessed
at less than Rs. 10,000, or (ii) that
they have been allotted land more
than 4 acres and that their claims
have been assessed at less than Rs.
20,000.

(b) if the answer to part (a) above
be in the affirmative what is the total
number of such claims received and
the number of claims so rejected
under each of the above categories ;
and

(c) whether Government are aware
that the claims of displaced persons
who have not been allotted any land
in India are accepted *in toto* ; if so,
what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR REHABILI-
TATION (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) Information is not readily avail-
able.

(c) Yes, the reason is that almost all
displaced persons who have been allo-
tted agricultural lands have also been
allotted residential houses in village
abadis.

IMPORT OF ART PENCILS

*316. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will
the Minister for COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a licence for the import
of 100,000 gross of "art" pencils from
Japan was granted to a newspaper
proprietor in Madras last year for
consumption by this newspapers; and

(b) whether the consignment has
arrived, if so, (i) when it arrived ;
and (ii) whether the quality of the
pencils was examined by the customs
authorities and what was the result of
such examination?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
(SHRI D.P. KARMARKAR) : (a) No,
Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MILL-MADE DHOTIES

*317. SHRI KAMESHWARA SINGH:
Will the Minister for COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to
State:

(a) what effect the recent decision
of Government to restrict the produc-
tion of mill-made dhoties has produc-
ed in the market ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government
to prevent the existing stock of mill-
made dhoties, from going to the black
market?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE
(SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) It
is too early to say what effect
this restriction has produced in the
market.

(b) Mill-made *dhoties* are now out-
side price control. The question of
dhoties going into the black market,
therefore, does not arise.

PROPERTY CLAIMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS

*318. LT. COL. J.S. MANN : Will
the Minister for REHABILITATION
be pleased to state: