

the Commerce and Industry Ministry to Hardua Ganj to inspect this establishment. I am expecting his report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 100

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : May I know how long this officer has been on special duty.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. I have called the next question.

IMPORT OF SILK YARN AND SILK CLOTH

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

(a) whether any licence has been granted for importing silk yarn and silk cloth during the period from January 1952 to date ; and

(b) if so, the quality of each of those commodities for which such licence has been granted ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) Licences have been granted from January 1952 to the end of June 1952 only.

(b) Presumably the hon. Member wishes to know the 'quantity' of the commodities for which import licences have been granted. Import licences for silk yarn and silk fabrics indicate the 'value' only and not quantity. The value of licences issued is Rs. 3,04,751 in the case of silk yarn and Rs. 8,82,450 in the case of silk fabrics.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know whether there is any price control on these articles imported into India ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Subject to correction, I do not think there is any restriction of that nature.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know whether this industry in India has suffered because of import of goods from outside ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : It is rather a difficult question. There is something behind it and I am not prepared to answer it.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Are the licence holders who import silk goods from outside made to sell Indian silk goods also along with the imported silk goods ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Since no over-all control is exercised, the control of the nature envisaged by the hon. Member would not be possible. The hon. Member may also know that the licences issued for the last half of the year are only in the region of about 8 lakhs. It may be that the imports during that period may be little more because there is a carry-over of the previous period. But so far as the present half year is concerned, i.e., the second half of 1952, we have not issued any licences and we have not yet settled our policy.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know whether the Silk Board was consulted before the licences were issued for import ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The Silk Board is not an executive body. It meets once a year and no consultation is possible.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know whether any representations were made to the Government by that Board that import licences should not be granted ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : No specific representations have been made by that Board or any other body.

EXPORT OF CLOTH

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

(a) how many yards of cloth were exported from India last year ;