

(b) the amount of the Dollar and Sterling earnings from such exports ; and

(c) the countries to which the cloth was exported ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) to (c). Two statements are placed on the Table of the House.

[See Appendix II, Annexure No. 51.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Sir, is the export on the increase or decrease ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Sir, that is very difficult to say. I have given figures for 1951-52. So far as the current year is concerned, it is rather premature for us to say whether the export will increase or decrease.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Have we exported more goods than we imported ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Undoubtedly.

PLASTICS MANUFACTURE

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

(a) the total quantities of plastics manufactured by the Indian factories in 1951 and 1952 ;

(b) the quantities of plastics imported into India in 1951 and 1952 with names of the countries from where imported ;

(c) the quantities of plastics exported from India in 1951 and 1952 with the names of the countries to which exported ; and

(d) what is the total capital invested in the Indian plastics factories ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) 1951—2,008 tons (approximately) ; 1952 (Jan.-June)—1 071 tons (approximately).

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, Annexure No. 52.]

(d) About Rs. 6 crores.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is not the return about 15 per cent. on the capital invested here ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I am afraid I must ask for notice.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Are there any foreign plastic industries in India, Sir ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : It is a question of what firms are foreign and what are not foreign. That is rather difficult to say.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : I mean the firms in which foreign capital is invested ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I am not aware of these details. As a matter of fact, there are about 75 Indian plastic industries out of which about 21 are fairly big. I have made no investigation whether foreign capital is invested in any of these or any foreign firm is operating. In the sense we understand, no foreign firm is operating.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Do we import more plastics year by year ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I am afraid my hon. friend has not understood the implication of my statement. We are importing raw materials necessary for the plastic industries. We are not importing any finished goods and actually the import of raw materials has been increasing which is an indication that the industry is thriving.

SHRI O. SOBHANI : Is any attempt being made to find out what raw materials are available in India that can be used by the plastic industry ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : This has been subject of investigation by the Tariff Board and certain recommendations have been made. The raw

materials which are required for the plastic industry are not easily available here. I do not think at any time we can make this industry completely self-sufficient so far as the raw materials are concerned. But the investigation is going on all the time.

ROCK-BURSTS IN KOLAR GOLD-FIELDS

*103. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that during the last three months repeated rock-bursts have been occurring in the gold mines of Kolar Gold-Fields resulting in death and serious injury to a large number of workers and causing panic and despair among them ; and

(b) whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry into the matter and take steps to set things right ?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : (a) During the past three months, there have been two major rock-bursts in the Champion Reef Mine, Kolar Gold-Field, the first occurring on the 19th April 1952 and involving death of twenty persons and minor injuries to nine persons, and the second occurring on the 30th June 1952 and involving death of ten persons and serious injuries to two persons. As these rock-bursts occurred in the same mine and resulted in a heavy loss of life, they have caused a certain amount of panic among workers.

(b) It has been decided to appoint a Court of Inquiry to go into the causes of and circumstances attending these accidents. In the light of its findings suitable action will be taken.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : May I know, Sir, when the Court of Inquiry will start its work ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : Very soon.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has the gold-mines company made any report in this regard to the Government ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : The Inspector made a report in this matter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know, Sir, the number of deaths which have occurred due to these rock-bursts ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : I have given the number.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know what machinery have the Government got there to supervise the safety measures that are to be taken in the mine ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : There is a supervisory staff headed by the Inspector.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Have they been checking periodically and if so, how often ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : I take it that they are being checked periodically.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Have they made a more intensive check after the first rock-burst which entailed so many lives ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : That is exactly the reason why we have ordered for a Court of Inquiry. The circumstances will be investigated and a report will be placed on the Table of the House.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Is any compensation being paid to the families of the workers who died there ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : Of course.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : May I know, Sir, whether the Court of Inquiry will be official or non-official ?

SHRI V. V. GIRI : It will be both official and non-official. There will be two assessors, one representing the employers and the other representing the workers.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has any Government officer visited the mine ?