

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 office 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 ;

(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