

year and the policy, where considered necessary, might be liberalised with a view to keep prices at reasonable level. The scope for liberalising the imports is, however, limited due to the difficult foreign exchange position.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether the Government have considered the point that there has been a reduction in the quota in regard to essential drugs and medicines owing to the new import policy?

Shri Satish Chandra: The quota for the import of drugs and medicines has not been drastically cut. There has been some reduction. The policy is to import medicines in bulk and to process and pack them here so that with the same amount of foreign exchange, we can have greater quantity.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Workers in Rayon Factories

*8. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1646 on the 10th September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the report of the Survey undertaken to study the deleterious effect on the health of workers in Rayon factories has since been received;

(b) if so, the main features of the report;

(c) the nature of action proposed to be taken on the report; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Not yet.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The data collected in the field studies is being tabulated and examined.

Automatic Looms

*12. **Shri S. E. Arumugham:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic looms allotted to Madras State so far; and

(b) whether these looms were allotted to the spinning mills alone or to the textile mills with weaving plants?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) 2784.

(b) Both composite and spinning Mills have been allotted automatic looms.

Mica Labour

*16. **Shri Nagi Reddy:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any memorandum from the Andhra Pradesh Mica Labour Union regarding "Silicas" disease prevalent among the labourers; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action on the same?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Information about the prevalence of "Silicosis" in mica areas has been brought to the notice of the Government by various organisations.

(b) Suggestion has been made to State Government to take appropriate steps for expeditious disposal of compensation cases. Arrangements for B.C.G. vaccination. X-Ray examination, hospitalization, etc. are also being made.