

Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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(a) During 1955, 1956 and 1957, the actual production of newsprint by Nepa Mills was 2,563, 10,792 and 14,645 tons respectively. The Mills have rated capacity of 30,000 tons per year or 100 tons per day. The current year's rate of production is about 23,500 tons per annum.

(b) The Government of India have not, so far, invested any capital in this concern. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have invested Rs. 60 lakhs.

(c) The distribution of Nepa Newsprint is done by the Nepa Mills themselves through the agents appointed by them as well as direct to the newspapers and Printers and publishers of text books and books of general interest.

(d) Some complaints have been received against the agents but they are dealt with by the Nepa Mills authorities.

Weights and Metric System

*868. Shri Anwar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that weights and measures of Metric System have been put into force from 1st of October, 1958;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that a common man finds it difficult to remember and pronounce the metric weights; and

(c) if so, whether Government will consider changing the names to easy Hindi language?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) As a first step, the use of metric weights has been authorised from 1st October for general trade

purposes in selected areas of the country and metric weights and measures for specified purposes in Government Departments and certain industries.

(b) and (c). Government are of the view that the public will soon get familiar with the new names and do not consider it necessary to coin Hindi terms which may be even more complicated.

Training of Indians in Watch Manufacture

*869. { Shri Ramakrishna Eddy:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Shrimati Ra Palchoudhuri:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri Halder:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shrimati Masida Ahmed:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delegation of Swiss Watch Industry which recently visited India, has offered scholarships for Indians for training in the manufacture of watches in Switzerland and also for setting up an Institute in India for providing training in watch manufacture;

(b) if so, whether the offer has been accepted by Government; and

(c) when and where the proposed training Institute will be set up?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). The Delegation of Swiss Watch Industry has offered some scholarships to Indian nationals for training in Switzerland and they have also offered us technical and financial assistance in setting up a Watch Training Institute in India with Swiss collaboration. No formal detailed offer has so far been conveyed and the actual arrangements will only be finalised after the formal offer is received.