

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manabhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three firms have been licensed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act for the manufacture of hosiery needles. Out of these, two are already in production. Government have also recently approved the schemes of two more firms for manufacture of hosiery needles, subject to the foreign collaboration involved in these cases being settled to the satisfaction of Government.

Unemployment amongst South African Indians

*625. { **Dr. Ram Smbhag Singh:**
Shri N. R. Munisamy:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn towards a statement made by the Prime Minister of South Africa in the African Parliament, with regard to undertaking of responsibility for solving the problem of unemployment among South African Indians, to the effect that "they were the responsibility not of the Union Government but of those people who wanted to take the responsibility on their shoulders", and

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the magnitude of unemployment among South African Indians and the further uneasiness that might have been caused among them by the statement of the South African Prime Minister?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):
(a) Yes. Government have seen press reports to this effect

(b) The Government of India have no precise information, nor is it possible to collect the same as they have no representative in the Union of South Africa now. However, according to some press reports, there are

about 20,000 unemployed persons of Indian origin in the city of Durban alone

As regards any uneasiness created by the statement of the South African Prime Minister, Dr G. M. Naicker, President of the South African Indian Congress is reported to have stated that if Dr. Verwoerd thinks that in this way he can intimidate the Indian people into submission to his policy of apartheid then he is mistaken. According to Dr. Naicker, they will continue with their struggle for just freedom as true South Africans. This will indicate that Dr. Verwoerd, by his statement, has not succeeded in curbing the spirit of persons of Indian origin in South Africa

Trade with East European Countries

*626 **Shri Pahadia:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Trade with East European countries has increased due to trade arrangements in terms of Indian rupee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):
(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

It is anticipated that trade with East European countries will increase considerably as a result of the new arrangements

2 Trade figures for January—May, 1959 and the corresponding period in 1958 are as follows:—

	(Value in Rs crores)	
	January—May, 1959	January—May, 1958
Imports	12.72	17.50
Exports	16.16	10.78

"Benami" Companies

*627. **Shri S. A. Mehdi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the resolution of the Madras Union