

## IMPORT OF INFANT FOODS

\*115. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have cut down imports of infant foods during the current licensing period to the extent of 80 per cent?

The Minister of **Commerce and Industry** (**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**): No, Sir. On the other hand the quota percentage for the import of infant foods from soft currency areas during the current licensing period has been increased to 100 per cent. as against 20 per cent. in the previous half year. In addition, licences for the import of powdered milk (for infant feeding) are allowed from dollar and hard currency countries on the basis of 20 per cent. quota. Applications for import licences from new comers are also entertained.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

\*116. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what are the recommendations of the Export Advisory Council which met in Delhi in the month of December 1952 with regard to the measures to be taken to promote India's export trade?

The Minister of **Commerce and Industry** (**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 22]

## PROTECTION OF DIBRUGARH TOWN FROM EROSION

\*117. **Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state when the construction of the proposed revetment on Brahmaputra for the protection of Dibrugarh Town from erosion is expected to begin?

(b) What steps, if any, have been taken by now to prevent erosion of Dibrugarh Town before the next monsoon breaks out in Assam?

The Deputy Minister of **Irrigation and Power** (**Shri Hathi**): (a) The state Government are responsible for the execution of the work. It will be taken up as soon as the necessary preliminaries are completed.

(b) Information is being collected from the State Government and will, on receipt, be placed, on the Table of the House.

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## CYCLE INDUSTRY

\*118. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tariff Commission's enquiry about the cycle industry has been completed; and

(b) whether the period of protection to this industry has been further extended?

The Minister of **Commerce and Industry** (**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, upto 31st December, 1953.

## ALL INDIA KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARDS

\*119. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether the All India Khadi and Village Industries Boards have begun functioning?

(b) If so, what is the programme of work that they have framed for the current year?

(c) Have separate Khadi and Village Industries Funds been created and if so, what is the amount in each case?

The Minister of **Commerce and Industry** (**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**): (a) The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board was inaugurated on the 2nd of February, 1953.

(b) For the current year the Board has recommended a grant of Rs. 9 lakhs and a loan of Rs. 30 lakhs to the All India Spinners' Association. The grant is to be spent on production and training centres for subsidising wages and sales, and the loan is intended for the purchase of cotton for Khadi production. These recommendations are now being examined.

The Board has set up committees to consider its programme of work and is expected to meet next month to consider the reports of these committees.

(c) A Khadi Fund is proposed to be set up. It is not proposed to have a separate Fund for Village Industries; but budget provision will however be made for this purpose in the normal way.

## CLOTH EXPORT

\*121. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how far the Government of India's announcement reducing the export duty