

prices in alignment with those prevailing in foreign countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This is a matter which is being constantly watched. It is not always possible to bring the internal prices in alignment with the prices ruling in foreign countries, as otherwise there will be no need for tariff protection. We do recognise that our own production units are not as efficient as the units in other countries. So in order to allow the industry to develop, we have to agree to a slightly higher price. What we are concerned with is whether the high price acts as a deterrent to consumption. From that point of view, Government keep a careful watch on prices.

Shri Kelappan: May I know whether we are importing these chemicals now, and if so, to what extent?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Chemicals can be categorised under about 150 headings.

Shri Kelappan: I mean these chemicals.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Caustic soda we have to import, because there is a large leeway to make up. We do not import sulphuric acid, but we import sulphur. We do not import superphosphates or bichromates.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF CLOTH

*307. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the cloth purchased during 1952 and 1953 respectively for use in the Rashtrapati Bhavan and other Government Offices;

(b) the value of the *Khadi* cloth included in these purchases; and

(c) the agencies through which such purchases were made?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) 1952—Rs. 6.65 lakhs approximately; 1953—Rs. 3.14 lakhs approximately.

(b) 1952—Rs. 0.28 lakhs.
1953—Rs. 2.02 lakhs.

(c) (i) The Controller, Government Cotton Spinning and Weaving Centres, Jullundur.

(ii) The All India Spinners' Association, Bombay.

(iii) The United Council for Relief and Welfare, Karnal.

(iv) The Indian Co-operative Union Ltd., New Delhi.

(v) The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, Bombay.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know whether the *Khadi* purchased was of a pure variety, i.e. hand-spun and hand-woven, or whether the mixed variety was also included in these purchases?

Mr. Speaker: I presume *khadi* means hand-spun and hand-woven.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: I wanted to know whether the figures given relate to *khadi* which was of a pure variety, or whether the mixed variety is also included in them.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I thought *khadi* meant hand-spun and hand-woven. The figures I have given relate to hand-spun and hand-woven cloth.

Shri Dabhi: How much *khadi* was purchased for the uniforms of the employees in Rashtrapati Bhavan?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got the figures relating to the uniforms. But if the figures for Rashtrapati Bhavan only are required, I can give them. For 1952, the entire expenditure for Rashtrapati Bhavan was Rs. 16,944, out of which Rs. 3,175 was spent on the purchase of *khadi*. In 1953, the entire value of the cloth that was purchased was Rs. 6,308 out of which Rs. 5,433 was spent on *khadi*.

Shri Mahodaya: Was that *khadi* certified?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That information is not available, but it was ensured that it was hand-spun and hand-woven.