

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No such difficulty has been brought to the notice of Government by the Industry.

GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING COLONY

***470. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether the speech delivered by the Prime Minister on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the Industrial Housing Colony at Chembur, Bombay State, to the effect that no house should be constructed in India for human habitation having less than two rooms, represents the policy of Government?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): Yes, Sir; that is the objective towards which we are working.

ALIGARH LOCK INDUSTRY

***471. Shri S. C. Singhal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the causes for the depression in the lock and metal industry of Aligarh;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to rehabilitate that industry; and

(c) the number of locks imported into India during the last three years?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Some of the causes for the depression in the lock industry of Aligarh are:—

(i) The industry has expanded to a great extent during the last war for meeting defence requirements, but with the cessation of hostilities the demand dwindled and consequently a large number of small scale units had to close down.

(ii) The consumers have a preference to comparatively cheap and better quality steel pressed locks over brass and G. I. locks manufactured at Aligarh.

(iii) Certain mal-practices like spurious markings regarding number of levers, resorted to by some lock producers of Aligarh, must have resulted in the consumers losing faith in the locks produced by them.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some steps have been taken by the U.P. Government.

(c) Information regarding the import of locks is not available as it is not shown separately in the 'Accounts relating to the Foreign (Sea, Air and Land) Trade and Navigation of India'.

TRACTOR PARTS

***484. Shri G. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms which are engaged in producing component parts of tractors in India; and

(b) the total investment thereon?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) There is no organised manufacture of tractor components as such in the country.

(b) Precise information is not available.

CENTRAL SERICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

***489. Shri S. M. Ghose:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) when the Central Sericultural Research Station at Berhampore, West Bengal has been established;

(b) whether there is any proposal before Union Government to shift it to Bangalore;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Union Government have received any protest in this regard from the Government of West Bengal?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The Central Sericultural Research Station was established in October, 1943.