

(b) whether it plays any part in seeing that only quality goods are exported from India to the U.S.A.; and

(c) if so, in what manner?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, sir to the extent visiting Indian merchants keep the Consulate General informed of their visits to New York.

(b) No sir, the consulate General is in no position to enforce quality checks at points of destination.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There seems to be a general complaint about sub-standard goods being sent to United States. If that is so....

Some Hon. Members: Louder please.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There is something wrong with the....

Mr. Speaker: In the meanwhile, hon. Members will speak louder.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The general complaint seems to be about sending sub-standard goods to United States and other countries. If that is so, what steps are being taken to see that only quality goods are sent?

Shri Kanungo: I would not subscribe to the view that the bulk of the goods sent out are sub-standard. But to ensure that the quality of exporters is as high as is necessary, we have taken steps to have voluntary quality control in textiles and we are trying other methods in various other commodities.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What are the steps taken at the governmental level?

Shri Kanungo: Government have organised Export Promotion Committees.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is within the knowledge of Government that certain coloured birds exported from India change their colour as soon as they get drenched there? For instance, some red birds exported have changed their colour as soon as they got drenched in water.

Shri Kanungo: If particulars are given I shall try to find out whether it is correct.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know in how many cases the services of the Indian Standards Institution has been used in this connection?

Shri Kanungo: The Indian Standards Institution provides standards as such, and they are trying to do so for as many products as possible. But in the matter of inspection and certification the Standards Institution are not concerned.

Indian Labour Conference

*19, **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subjects for discussion at the Fifteenth Session of Indian Labour Conference has since been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the subjects; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The agenda is as follows:

(1) Report of the Study Group on Workers' participation in Management.

(2) Report on Workers Education.

(3) Training Within Industry (T.W.I.).

(4) A model agreement to guide employers in regard to rationalisation.

(5) Steps necessary to popularise the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme among employees and co-operatives

(6) Wage Policy during the Second Five Year Plan.

(7) Workers' discipline.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when this conference is likely to be held—since the last conference was held two years ago, as against the idea of yearly conferences?

Shri Abid Ali: It will be held either in July or August next.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the venue of this conference has been decided upon?

Shri Abid Ali: Probably it will be Delhi.

Optical Glass Plant

*20. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the present position with regard to the setting up of any optical glass plant in India under the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Efforts are being made to obtain technical collaboration from reputed manufactureres abroad for the production of optical and ophthalmic glasses in this country. Recently, at the invitation of the Government of India, a team of experts from the U.S.S.R. visited this country and has, after an extensive tour, submitted a preliminary project report which is under examination.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether India will have self-sufficiency by the end of the Second Plan period, regarding optical glass?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, more or less.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: May I know whether the Government of India propose to instal these plants in India, and in how many places?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is with reference only to one plant for optical glass and ophthalmic glass.

Shri Biren Roy: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the setting up of the optical glass factory would only be in the public sector or would also be allowed in the private sector?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The present question relates to a public sector factory.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what is our annual requirement of optical and ophthalmic glass, and what are the natural resources which may be necessary for starting the factory?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The present estimates are 40 to 50 tons of optical glass and 250 tons of ophthalmic glass; and we have sufficient resources in the country to manufacture these quantities.

Indian Trade Centre, New York

*22. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what are the functions of the Indian Trade Centre in New York city;

(b) what is the value of the goods exhibited there; and

(c) what is the expenditure involved on this centre?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The main functions of the Indian Trade Centre at New York are to give visual publicity to India's export products to stimulate consumer interest and to give trade information to prospective American importers and to provide trade instructions to Indian exporters.