

Mr. Speaker: He says no production has yet started. What else does he want?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Two years have passed and still nothing has been done.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever may be the period he can only ask for information; no arguments at this moment.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know the number of trainees who have qualified from this centre and whether there were some administrative problems because of which this programme has not been implemented, as was originally expected?

Shri Kanungo: So far, 167 persons have been trained. A batch of 89 persons will be completing their training by June 1963. There is no administrative problem. The problem was about location and housing.

Export Advisory Committee for Pearls and Precious Stones

*946. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted an Export Advisory Committee for pearls, precious stones, diamonds and jewellery; and

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee and the criteria for appointment as members?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee consists of ten representatives of the trade from all over the country and two officials of the Government including the Chairman. The main criteria for selection of representatives of the trade was their knowledge and experience in exports of pearls, precious stones, diamonds, jewellery etc. and their business reputation. A list of names with terms of reference is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library, see No. LT-1167/63].

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether Government have formulated an export promotion programme in regard to these commodities and if so, the broad details?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is going on for the last seven years and the trend is on the rise. Because we are not producing any of these commodities in the country they are allowed to be imported in rough condition, uncut condition. Here in Jaipur in Northern India, UP, Cambay and in the South we have got very good gem cutters who cut and polish them before they are exported to foreign countries.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the real leaders of export trade in these commodities are not really nominated to these committees so that they cannot effectively function and represent the trade?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the hon. Member sees the names, he will find that 80 per cent of the export is done by these people.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा : मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस कमेटी में कोई विदेशी भी लिए गए हैं क्या ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : कोई विदेशी नहीं हैं, सब हिन्दुस्तान के आदमी हैं ।

Shri Warrior: May I know whether this trade in stone-cutting has completely stopped, as far as South is concerned, and no export promotion is made to export more stones after giving them to good cutters?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I said, most of these stones are imported and they are cut here. If the hon. Member wants the figures, in the previous year the export amounted to Rs. 6 crores. This year it has risen to Rs. 9.35 crores. We hope to reach the figure of Rs. 12 crores.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether Government have duly taken into consideration the fact that throughout the long millennia of our history taking out of precious stones has been considered as most inauspicious?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Saraf.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether any attempt has been made to introduce cut-jewellery for export on the Holland pattern?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is all cut-jewellery, that is, set, unset, put into platinum and palladium and various other forms but not gold jewellery. About gold jewellery I expect to announce the scheme within a week.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Gems are simple stone pieces cut in modern shapes and designs as is done in Holland.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is not for stones but for precious stones which have ten thousand times more value than the ordinary stones. We are dealing with that. So far as alabaster, makrana etc. are concerned, they are also exported under the incentive scheme.

Shri Kapur Singh: Sir, my question is a very important question. I wanted to know whether this Government has any regard for the ancient traditions of our country. Do they ever take them into account while formulating their basic policy?

Mr. Speaker: I thought that even the question was inauspicious at that moment.

Shri Kapur Singh: I should like to hear his reaction.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Throughout ancient history India has been an exported of precious stones. We have the largest number of gem cutters in the whole world but more than that all these precious stones come from

foreign countries in an uncut condition and they are processed here and sent out. More than a million families live on that.

Shri S. Kandappan: May I know whether Government has considered the possibility of improving pearl fishery in the South?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is a very important question. But unfortunately on our sea coast we have not been able to develop oysters as the Japanese have done. We are trying to pay some attention to it. But that requires reproduction of certain special varieties of oyster fish to get these natural pearls.

Shri P. Venakatasubbaiah: What is the position regarding our importing precious stones from Burma? Is it on the increase or on the decrease?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are exporting to Burma and not importing. It is on the increase.

Export of Textiles to Burma

*947. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the nationalisation of the banking business in Burma, export of Indian textiles to that country has been suspended;

(b) the part of Burma's textile requirements which was being met from Indian sources before the nationalisation and the loss sustained in India's export trade on this score; and

(c) whether Government of India propose to take any steps to restore our normal export trade in textiles with Burma?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). Export of Indian textiles to