

adverse balance of trade will get much bridged.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of some developments having already taken place in regard to the Asian Common Market idea—our Government has also taken part in that idea—may I know if in the talks with Professor Hallstein anything was found out so that in actual fact there would not be that kind of division of labour, which the Minister has just now referred to, which would lead to our countries continuing to be the economic hinterland?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I would like to take the last part of the question of the hon. Member first. The international division of labour is not our or others recent or new proposal with the European Community. Even Mr. Khrushchev has been kind enough to propose this to the East European countries when the Secretary-General visited Moscow. Earlier, when I had also occasions to talk with him in the past, we were all the time pleading that the trade policies should be irrespective of ideologies and the under-developed countries should be allowed a share in the growing economies of the industrialised countries. That is point No. 1. Regarding the second question, I do not think any Asian Common Market scheme as such has been formally either proposed or sponsored. What happened in Manila was decision on regional economic planning and cooperation to see that the Asian countries trade between themselves, between each other in an expanding manner rather than all the time exclusively looking to industrialized country's markets. That is the proposal that was worked out. There has been neither a forum nor a gamut for any Asian Common Market.

—
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

Automobiles for Defence

*952 **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Will the Minister of Economic and De-

fence **Coordination** be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence requirements for Automobiles have been finalised and purchase orders placed with local manufacturers; and

(b) whether any manufacture and supply programme for further has been drawn up?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Economic and Defence Coordination (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The present manufacturing capacity of the progressive manufacturers of automobiles in the country is being utilised to the maximum extent to meet the current and future Defence requirements.

Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal

*958 { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri Mohammad Elias:

Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incentive bonus scheme has been devised for introduction in the Heavy Electricals Project at Bhopal; and

(b) whether the Union Government have suggested to the State Governments to examine the possibility of introducing uniform labour laws in the Centrally sponsored projects, including the Heavy Electricals?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Manufacture of Tractors

*959. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri Samnani:

Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any licence has been issued to the Good Earth group of

Companies for manufacture of tractors;

(b) if so, the number of licences issued and the kind of tractors being manufactured by this group; and

(c) how these tractors are sold in the market?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, have been granted to the firm for manufacture of 'Eicher' tractors in 12-18 DBHP and 20-30 DBHP ranges.

(c) The tractors are sold through a net work of dealers appointed by the manufacturers.

Steel Equalisation Fund

*960. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the total accumulations in the Steel Equalization Fund to date;

(b) whether it is proposed to utilize the accumulations to bring down the prices of steel; and

(c) if so, whether Government have formulated any specific proposals and a time-table for doing so?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Rs. 64.06 crores as on 31-3-1963.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The primary function of the Equalisation Fund at present is to meet freight charges so that steel is supplied at all rail heads in the country at a uniform price.

Exports of Handlooms

*961 { **Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decline in our exports of handlooms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to step up the exports?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). The exports of handloom fabrics have improved during the period April 1962—February 1963 and are of the order of Rs. 12.4 crores as compared to Rs. 11.1 crores in 1961-62 and Rs. 10.2 crores for the corresponding period April 1961 to February 1962.

2. While there was some decline in the export of handloom goods to traditional markets during the year 1962, there was a very significant increase in the exports to the non-traditional markets viz. USA and the continental countries. The decline in exports to traditional markets is partly due to the development of textile industries in these areas as also competition from Japan and Hong Kong which produce cheaper quality of imitation cloth. The situation is being closely watched and whenever necessary, action at government level is taken, as for instance discussions with Ceylon.

3. The All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society, Bombay has appointed a number of commercial travellers with a view to step up our export handloom goods to new areas in addition to the emporia already in existence in Aden, Colombo, Kullalumpur, Singapore and Jaffna.

4. Exports of handloom fabrics of the variety popularly known as Bleeding Madras have been of the order of about Rs. 2.00 crores to U.S.A. during 1962.

5. Pre-shipment inspection and quality marketing schemes have been introduced in respect of handloom fabrics. This is compulsory in the case of exports of Bleeding Madras and Etawah Bedspreads.

6. Government are trying to include specific quotas for handloom fabrics in bilateral Trade Agreements.