

7. An Export Promotion Advisory Committee for handloom goods was set up on 15th October, 1962 to deal with problems relating to exports of handloom goods. This Committee has met a number of times since then and offered useful suggestions for stepping up exports.

Large-sized Machine Tools Factory at Ranchi

*962. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

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

(a) whether Government have placed an order with Japan for medium-sized machine tools, in connection with a plan to build a factory to produce large-sized Machine Tools in India at Ranchi;

(b) if so, the size of the order; and

(c) the progress made so far in the direction of setting up of the factory?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The Detailed Project Report for the Heavy Machine Tool Plant at Ranchi received from Messrs. Techno-export, Prague has been considered and accepted in principle by the Government. Contracts for supply of plant and machinery, consultancy services, erection supervision are expected to be entered into very shortly with the Czechs.

Asian Common Market

*963. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

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

(a) whether the ECAFE Conference at its recent meeting in Manila un-

animously approved of the resolution for a proposed Asian Common Market;

(b) whether India was one of the co-sponsors of the resolution; and

(c) the main features of the proposed Common Market for Asia?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir; but a resolution urging the countries of the region to intensify their efforts towards greater regional co-operation and calling upon the Executive Secretary of the ECAFE to convene a meeting of high level representatives of the Governments of the Region to review the progress achieved so far and to formulate and adopt more positive measures for concerted regional action, was passed unanimously at the Manila Session. A copy of this resolution is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library, see No. LT-1168/63].

(b) India was one of the Co-sponsors of the resolution referred to at (a) above.

(c) Does not arise.

Soda Ash Factory in Rajasthan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that certain foreign consultants were engaged to design and/or advise on the establishment of a Soda Ash Factory in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the names of the consultants and the fee paid or payable to them; and

(c) the reasons for engaging foreign consultants?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir. A firm of foreign consultants were engaged to undertake a project survey and examine the feasibility of setting up a Soda Ash plant near the Sambhar Lake based on the lake salt.