

LOK SABHA

Monday, September 9, 1963/Bhadra
18, 1885 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
Indian Missions Abroad

*554. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Purchase Unit' created to consider the question of standardisation of furniture furnishings for supply to Indian Missions abroad and to explore the possibilities of meeting all such demands from India has completed its work and submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the important recommendations made by the Unit?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). The 'Purchase Unit' has completed the preliminaries relating to the work of standardisation of furniture/furnishings|cutlery|crockery|glassware. For furniture alone, this Unit has collected about 400 designs for different items which are generally required for our Missions abroad. These will be placed before the Advisory Committee for their advice and final approval. As regards representational crockery a contract with an Indian firm has already been executed. The prototype manufactured by the firm is under examination. The question of the standardisation of Indian cutlery|glassware is now under active consideration.

1135 (Ai) LSD—1.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any assessment has been made as to the savings if the suggestions made by this purchase unit are taken into consideration?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No assessment has been made so far. But we will save considerable foreign exchange when the standardisation takes place.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: With regard to certain suggestions made by this purchase unit, the hon. Minister said that they are under consideration. May I know how long it will take to come to a final decision with regard to it?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: As far as crockery is concerned, I have already stated that we have given a contract and it is being implemented. With regard to soft furnishings, etc., that is also very easy because we have the material. The difficulty is only with cutlery and glassware. We have sent them for Government test at Alipore and if they conform to the Indian standards, we will approve them.

Dr. Govind Das: Is the hon. Minister aware that in many embassies in many countries, which I have myself seen, the conditions are pitiable? Will she also see that there is not too much miserliness in this respect?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: In some of the Missions, furnishings and other things are good, but in some other Missions, it is not. That is the reason why we have this purchase unit.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Is it under contemplation to standardise the articles that will be supplied to these embassies and other offices or will there be other standards fixed for Consuls and other offices separately?