

also some representatives from have visited Israel and we have had discussions. If the hon. Member sees the trade pattern, either the imports from or the exports to Israel, it is negligible. In view of the negligible volume of trade between the two countries, it has not been found necessary to make any special efforts to explore it further.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it not a fact that we have got a good amount of trade with other countries in the Middle East surrounding Israel? Have the Government made any efforts to find out why our trade with Israel is so negligible?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have made efforts. We are already contacting the Arab countries. We are joining in other type of work with other countries which are neighbours to Israel. As far as Israel is concerned, I have already given the answer.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the hon. Prime Minister is never tired of saying that we might not have diplomatic relations with Israel but then we are dealing with Israel in so many ways, why is trade not one of the ways and why is it not explored in pursuance of the hon. Prime Minister's statement?

Mr. Speaker: Can it be increased unilaterally? The hon. Minister says that there are occasional consultations between the representatives. If there is a desire on both sides, it can be increased.

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit that there is a Consulate in Bombay and as far as my knowledge goes they are very much interested in promoting trade with this country? The only thing is that we are not interested in it.

Mr. Speaker: Is that the position that we are not interested in increasing our trade whereas the other party does desire it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are interested and to that extent developments are talking place. But due

to the negligible volume of trade involved in both sides no special efforts and accommodation are necessary.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is India's reluctance to have more trade relations with Israel—the hon. Minister is not listening.... (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: He says that India is not reluctant; India desires it but the scope is limited. He might ask the question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has India sent any trade delegation to Israel so far just as Israel has sent a delegation to India and, if so, when?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There have been some visits from our people to Israel and there have been reciprocal visits from there. But any aggressive salesmanship by both sides has been absent because of the limited volume of trade. I do not think this question....

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are anxious to know if there is any explanation why there is limited volume of trade between the two countries.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Because of the population of the country involved it is so. Israel is a small country.

Export of Coir Goods

*759. **Shri Nataraja Pillai:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1108, on the 16th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the coir board has formulated any scheme of mechanisation in the coir industry;

(b) if so, whether it is for the extraction of fibre or spinning of yarn or weaving of mats or mattings; and

(c) whether any scheme formulated has been implemented so far?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). The Central Government, the Kerala Government, Coir Board and the Coir Industry have agreed to mechanise a portion of the coir weaving industry. Details are being worked out.

Shri Nataraja Pillai: May I know whether in that industry by mechanisation there will be displacement of labour?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There will be, but we have provided for alternatives for absorption. There will be a rendering of about 1,500 people surplus, but in view of the fact that we want to produce more wealth of the coir fibre there which will ultimately lead to larger employment we have decided to mechanise one-third of the industry.

Shri Nataraja Pillai: Is it in the spinning section or in the coir matting weaving section?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is in the coir matting weaving section and not in the spinning section.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether Government have any alternative plan or scheme to meet the contingency of unemployment on the part of the labourers?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That has been very carefully thought of. As a matter of fact, as the hon. Member and the House are aware, several new textile spinning units which will give almost ten times more employment to workers are already contemplated to be established there. We have taken special care that wherever mechanisation is introduced the labour rendered surplus will be absorbed locally also.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether this mechanisation process will, in any way, affect the coir yarn export of our country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is likely to increase all round exports of coir products. It will reduce the cost of production. We are priced out in the world market. It is our intention to modernise every industry, wherever we can, in order to reduce the cost of production.

Employment Exchange for the Handicapped in Delhi

***760. Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly opened employment exchange in Delhi for the employment of handicapped and crippled people has proved to be successful; and

(b) the number of placements made during the last six months?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) 60.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know the reasons for such poor placements and whether any effort has been made to persuade the industry to take more and more persons from amongst the handicapped people?

Shri Hathi: Looking to the work that has been done during the short period, that is only one year, out of 116 persons who had registered, sixty have been placed. I do not think the performance could be said to be poor.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know if the trade and industry people have also made this representation that unless some arrangement is made by the employment exchange to train these people it would not be possible for them to absorb more and more of these persons?

Shri Hathi: The people who come here are trained and vocational guidance is given to them.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know if there is any such institution