

display of the Indian handicrafts and handloom products in other countries besides India's participation in the foreign exhibitions?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): The Government of India maintain in several foreign countries Trade Centres, Showrooms and Showwindows which provide continuous opportunities for display of Indian goods including handicrafts and handloom products.

Indian handicrafts have also been displayed in London and Paris by arrangement with certain department stores.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know if as a result of the arrangements for display of these articles, there has been any increase in the export of these commodities to these countries?

Shri Satish Chandra: These centres, showrooms, etc. are maintained mainly for the promotion of trade. The actual trade takes place through private importers and exporters. There has been some increase in the export of handloom fabrics and handicrafts.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know the countries where these arrangements have been made?

Shri Satish Chandra: There are 33 centres, 11 showrooms, 5 showwindows and 10 showcases. There are also 6 depots of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society. I can give a list to the hon. Member. It is a long list.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wanted the names of the countries.

Shri Satish Chandra: There are 35 countries. Shall I read their names.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They need not be read out.

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : माऊथ इस्ट एशिया में किन किन स्त्रानों पर हैंडलूम शोक्वूम स्थापित हैं ।

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : हेंडलूम के डिपों लो गिगापुर, बेंगलूरक, कलाना, लाम्पु, और कोलम्बो में हैं और रंगून में एक एजेंसा है ।

Shri Ranga: Could we have some information—if not now later on it may be circulated to Members—as to the number of countries in which we have our own Embassies where we have taken part in these exhibitions and other shows, and also have maintained certain showcases in our own Embassy offices?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If that statement is laid on the Table, that might give that information.

Shri Satish Chandra: I will place it on the Table. There are ten countries where we have show cases in our Embassies.

Shri Joachim Alva: When Indians go abroad, some of them are inclined to buy small things from these handicraft showrooms and give them as small presents of insubstantial sums. Are there any facilities with the Ministry for making purchases by our own nationals abroad and guaranteeing their payment here?

Shri Satish Chandra: Wherever we have showrooms, they could be purchased, but where there are only show windows or show cases, they are not for sale.

Coir Industry

*1127. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Coir Industry has made any progress after the setting up of the Coir Board and if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The programmes for the development of Coir industry fall into two parts, namely, those implemented by the State Governments with financial assistance from

the Central Government, and those implemented by the Coir Board. Organisation of the industry on co-operative lines has been the main programme implemented by the State Governments, while the Coir Board has been taking steps for conducting research, promoting internal and external markets and improving standards of production. The Coir Industry has derived substantial benefits as a result of these programmes.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether, as a result of the functioning of the Coir Board, there has been any increase in the per capita earnings in any of the sections of that coir industry?

Shri Mannubhai Shah: As I informed the hon. House a few days before, a committee of evaluation has been appointed, and their report is expected by May, 1958, but from what general information we have been able to gather, there has been a sizable increase in the wage-earning of the coir workers. Also, production has gone up, and as matter of fact, a stabilising influence has come in an industry which was disintegrating.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that the State was also implementing certain schemes. I want to know whether the Kerala Government had made any demand for additional sums, and if so, whether all the amounts required by the Kerala Government have been given?

Shri Mannubhai Shah: There has been a large amount of correspondence in this connection with the different State Governments, and the House will be glad to know that the allocations have been raised for the whole of India for coir development from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2.3 crores, and a sizable amount has been increased to the State Government of Kerala.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That was not my question. My question was whether the allocations asked for by the

Kerala Government have been met in full, and if not for what specific reasons.

Shri Mannubhai Shah: We had to make a cut of over 30 per cent. in what they asked for. They asked for Rs. 90 lakhs, we gave them about Rs. 65 lakhs.

Shri Kumaran: May I know whether the Government of India have received any scheme from the Kerala Government for the reorganisation and better working of the coir industry and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

Shri Mannubhai Shah: No, Sir.

Shri B. Das Gupta: May I know whether any scheme was received from West Bengal regarding the coir industry, and if so, what steps the Coir Board has taken regarding that?

Shri Mannubhai Shah: We have been able to make every State Government take interest, particularly the maritime States. The West Bengal Government has also been taking very keen interest in this recently. Therefore, a second branch of the Coir institute from Kerala is also proposed to be started in West Bengal.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that there was a cut of 30 per cent. in the demand of the Kerala Government. May I know whether this cut was made at the instance of the Government of India, or on the recommendation of the Coir Board?

Shri Mannubhai Shah: As the hon. Member knows, the demands placed on the Centre by different State Governments for different schemes are not always possible to be fully met. We have to work within our resources, but it should be appreciated that the total allocation of Rs. 1 crore in the Second Plan has been raised to Rs. 2.3 crores, which is a substantial rise in the present circumstances of stringent economy.