

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to relieve the difficulties?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Maanbhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Actual Users licences for import of copra are granted to the associations of non-motive power soap manufacturers. The imports of caustic soda are also being stepped up to meet the increased demand. The State Trading Corporation, through whom the imports are canalised and who are responsible for distribution of the imported caustic soda, are making efforts to meet the demand of soap manufacturers as much as possible. Further industrial licences have also been granted for the establishment of new units and expansion scheme to increase the indigenous production capacity of caustic soda in the country.

European Common Market Scheme

*34 { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Assar
Shri S M Banerjee:
Shri Sadhan Gupta
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Dr Ram Subhag Singh

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have assessed the situation arising out of the formation of European Common Market,

(b) whether it will have any adverse or favourable effect on our export earnings,

(c) the names of the commodities and the extent to which their export will be affected, and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c) It is too early to make a precise assessment. But Government are watching developments and the situation is being kept under examination.

(d) Consultations are being held in the GATT with member States of the Common Market with a view to making this assessment and negotiating possible remedial measures.

Import of Kashmir Shawls by U.S.S.R.

*35. Shri A. M. Tariq: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.S.R. have shown a keen interest in the import of Kashmir Shawls, Embroidery, Papier Mache and other artistic material produced in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what action Government of India have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Maanbhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir. Orders for the supply of Kashmir Shawls, and other artistic products have been received from U.S.S.R. during the last few years.

(b) A provision has been made in the Trade Agreement recently concluded with the Government of U.S.S.R. for export of Indian Handicrafts which should include Kashmiri Shawls etc. Financial assistance is being given to the State Government for developing production etc. of these handicrafts.

Enquiry into Kerala Plantation Strike

*36. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 850 on the 11th December, 1958 and state.

(a) whether an enquiry into the Kerala Plantation strike from the point of view of the Code of Discipline has been made, and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.