

Outer Seven Scheme of the European Countries

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 Shri P. G. Deb:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Kalika Singh:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

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

(a) whether the U.K. Government has decided to participate in the Outer Seven Scheme of the European Countries; and

(b) if so, what are the safeguards for Indian goods and details of the safeguards?

The Minister of **Commerce (Shri Kanungo)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In giving our consent to the United Kingdom's request for adjustment of their commitments regarding tariff preference to Indian products, we had attached certain conditions which we considered necessary to safeguard India's essential commercial interests. In particular we stressed that the elimination of the contractual preferences should not involve the levy of duty on Indian goods at a rate higher than at present applicable, and also that Indian goods are not placed at a disadvantage in relation to goods from the European Free Trade Area.

The effects of India's exports to the United Kingdom will be kept under constant review, and we have kept ourselves free to take up the question of compensation at a later stage, if any actual damage is caused.

Training-cum-Production Centre for Artistic Handicrafts

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 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri Nek Ram Negi:
 Shri R. C. Majhi:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Handicraft Development Corporation

of India has decided to set up a training-cum-production centre for artistic handicrafts; and

(b) if so, when and where this will be set up and under whose instance this will be set up?

The Minister of **Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah)**: (a) and (b). On the recommendation of a French Expert, the Indian Handicrafts Development Corporation Lt. have decided to set up a training-cum-production centre for artistic handbags in Delhi. The Centre will start functioning as soon as preliminary arrangements, such as the import of requisite machinery, etc. have been completed.

Production of Vitamin 'C'

*510. **Shri Parulekar**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a licence has been granted to M/s. Sarabhai Chemicals Ltd., for producing 60 tons of Vitamin 'C' in collaboration with E. Merck & Co.;

(b) the total present consumption of Vitamin 'C' in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that production of Vitamin 'C' was included in the original project report of Soviet Union; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for excluding its production from the Soviet Drug Project and granting a licence for its production to M/s. Sarabhai Chemicals Ltd.?

The Minister of **Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah)**: (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Besides this scheme one more scheme for Vitamin C for Hyderabad was also approved and two more schemes for Vitamin C are under consideration. Also National Chemical Laboratories had developed a process for manufacture of Vitamin C and M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics are considering manufacture of Vitamin C by this process developed by National Chemical Laboratories. The present consumption of Vitamin C in the