

State Enterprises

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 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 Kumari M. Vedakumari:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Shri Damani:
 Shri M. K. Kumaran:
 Shri Achar:
 Shri Supakar:
 Shri S. A. Mehdi:
 Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 17 on the 1st August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether any report has been received from the Study Group set up to examine the question of public participation in the capital of state enterprises; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations and Government's reaction thereto?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Study Group are still under consideration and no final views have so far been formulated by Government.

Trade with Afghan Countries

*469. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote trade with the independent African countries; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to study the scope of trade prospects with those countries?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) The steps taken or proposed to be taken for promotion of trade with independent African countries consist of opening commercial offices organising visual publicity, negotiating trade agreements on basis of equality and mutual advantage, exchanges of delegations etc.

(b) The possibility of strengthening trade relations with these countries is engaging the attention of the Government.

Coir Industry

*470. **Shri Kodiyan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to diversify production in the coir industry and to improve the quality of coir products; and

(b) the expenditure incurred if any, in this connection by the Centre?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Steps have been taken by Government in this direction by setting up pilot plants for production of mattress and bristle fibre, giving financial assistance to State Governments for production of various designs and types of door mats, ribbed carpet mats and brush mats. Training is also being imparted to artisans in the production of improved quality of yarns through spinning machines in the Training-cum-production Centres set up by the State Governments. The Coir Board is also taking steps through research institutes towards improvement of quality of Coir goods and also fixing grade standards of Coir goods. The question of modernising and mechanising the manufacturing sector of Coir Industry is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Government of India have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 8,63,157 and loan of Rs. 36,04,394 to various State Governments during the first four years of the Second plan for various types of Coir schemes viz. organisation of Coir Co-operative Societies, establishment of fibre mills and training-cum-production Centres.