

(3) Training Within Industry (T.W.I.).

(4) A model agreement to guide employers in regard to rationalisation.

(5) Steps necessary to popularise the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme among employees and co-operatives

(6) Wage Policy during the Second Five Year Plan.

(7) Workers' discipline.

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know when this conference is likely to be held—since the last conference was held two years ago, as against the idea of yearly conferences?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It will be held either in July or August next.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know whether the venue of this conference has been decided upon?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Probably it will be Delhi.

#### Optical Glass Plant

\*20. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the present position with regard to the setting up of any optical glass plant in India under the Second Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** Efforts are being made to obtain technical collaboration from reputed manufactureres abroad for the production of optical and ophthalmic glasses in this country. Recently, at the invitation of the Government of India, a team of experts from the U.S.S.R. visited this country and has, after an extensive tour, submitted a preliminary project report which is under examination.

**Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** May I know whether India will have self-sufficiency by the end of the Second Plan period, regarding optical glass?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Yes, more or less.

**Shri Subbiah Ambalam:** May I know whether the Government of India propose to instal these plants in India, and in how many places?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This is with reference only to one plant for optical glass and ophthalmic glass.

**Shri Biren Roy:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the setting up of the optical glass factory would only be in the public sector or would also be allowed in the private sector?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The present question relates to a public sector factory.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know what is our annual requirement of optical and ophthalmic glass, and what are the natural resources which may be necessary for starting the factory?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The present estimates are 40 to 50 tons of optical glass and 250 tons of ophthalmic glass; and we have sufficient resources in the country to manufacture these quantities.

#### Indian Trade Centre, New York

\*22. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what are the functions of the Indian Trade Centre in New York city;

(b) what is the value of the goods exhibited there; and

(c) what is the expenditure involved on this centre?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) The main functions of the Indian Trade Centre at New York are to give visual publicity to India's export products to stimulate consumer interest and to give trade information to prospective American importers and to provide trade instructions to Indian exporters.

(b) About Rs. 1,25,000/- at a time.

(c) About Rs. 2 lakhs per annum.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** May I know the strength of the staff maintained and if the work turned out is commensurate with the expenditure involved?

**Shri Kanungo:** I could not give the exact figure of the staff, but the cost of the establishment is somewhere round Rs. 85,000 odd. As for judging the work, we have to wait for a fairly long time to judge the results of the promotional work.

**Shri Heda:** Does this Trade Centre welcome enquiries of the importers in the United States and give them proper contracts in our country?

**Shri Kanungo:** Yes, Sir.

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** May I know if any attempt is made to popularise our traditional Indian designs in textiles and cloth instead of having our weavers and craftsmen copy European designs?

**Shri Kanungo:** I am afraid that Indian weavers have not started copying any designs from Europe. As for popularising Indian designs, one of the items which this particular Centre handles is the handloom goods.

#### Coal Mine Workers

\*23. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the total wage bill, of the workers in the coal-mines in the country since 1952 to 1956, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to provide any other amenities like construction of quarters; and

(c) if so, the number of quarters constructed up to the end of April, 1957?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) The information is not readily available.

(b) and (c). 4724 houses have been constructed up to the end of April 1957 either directly by the Fund or under the Subsidy and Subsidy-cum-loan schemes.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Government had decided to construct fifty thousand quarters during the Second Plan period; but during the first year of the Second Plan period not even the land has been acquired. May I know whether these fifty thousand quarters will be constructed during the Plan period at least?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Already about 4000 houses have been sanctioned under this scheme and we expect that it will be possible to adhere to the programme.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** We have noted before that a lot of money lapsed on account of the construction of the quarters not being proceeded with. Could the Government tell us what steps are taken to ensure that there will be no such lapse of the moneys granted now?

**Shri Abid Ali:** No such question arises with regard to this particular scheme because the houses are to be built with the Coal Mines Welfare Fund and this would not lapse.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know whether it is a fact that in Korada coal fields, there is no arrangement for quarters or drinking water and other amenities to labourers?

**Shri Abid Ali:** If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I will collect the information.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** Is it a fact that a large number of houses constructed are lying vacant for one reason or another and the workers have not occupied these quarters.

**Shri Abid Ali:** Only in Luni some houses were not occupied because of some difficulties. Now only 200 houses remain vacant. Arrangement has been made with other departments and it is expected that these houses will also be occupied.