

ral Government servants under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme are under consideration. Meanwhile, enquiries (including some requests for loans) have been received from about 500 Central Government servants.

(b) No separate Department or Unit has been set up, so far, to deal with applications from Central Government Servants.

Thakur Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know, normally, how long an application will be under consideration in the Ministry?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is only less than two months ago that the scheme was announced and enquiries were invited. The intention is to sanction them quickly.

EMPORIUM AT GENEVA

*2145. **Shri Ram Shankar Lal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a permanent Emporium at Geneva;

(b) if so, the purpose of the Emporium; and

(c) the amount sanctioned therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). No, Sir; but the Government of India are strengthening their show room and converting it into a trade centre for more effective trade publicity.

(c) The amount sanctioned so far is Rs. 4,78,238.

Dr. Rama Rao: What are the articles which will be exhibited in this emporium? Is handloom cloth one of them?

Shri Kanungo: It is not an emporium. It is a trade centre. All goods which have a prospect of having a market in that country and near about countries will be exhibited.

TEXTILE EXPORTS TO IRAQ

*2146. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India

has good prospects of augmenting her textile exports to Iraq;

(b) if so, the action that the Textile Export Promotion Council propose to take in the matter; and

(c) the main complaint about Indian cloth in Iraq and how far the complaint has been met?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) It is difficult to give a categorical answer. All that I can say at this stage is that there are prospects.

(b) and (c). The matter is engaging the attention of both the Government of India as well as the Export Promotion Council. In order to obviate complaints about quality of Indian cloth and deliveries not being made according to schedule, the Export Promotion Council has introduced a scheme of quantity control on voluntary basis. The question of exporting cloth under the Standard Contract Form is also under consideration.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether it is a fact that the Indian Ambassador in Iraq reported to the Government of India to step up the export of Indian cloth to Iraq and whether the Government followed a go-slow policy?

Shri Kanungo: It is not correct.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know if the Government of India have appointed an officer on special duty to look after a good market for Indian cloth in the Middle East?

Shri Kanungo: It is done by the Export Promotion Council.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know which country has the largest amount of trade with the Middle East countries in regard to cloth and whether the prices at which they make cloth available to the Middle East Countries compare favourably with our rates?

Shri Kanungo: As far as textiles are concerned, the largest chunk is sent to the Middle East countries by Japan and the U.K. In some cases our prices compare favourably and in some other cases, they do not.