

Shri Manubhai Shah: Research in weaving, particularly finishing and printing of handloom cloth.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Does the Government of India propose to acquire the site at the place proposed in order to locate this Institute?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know the reasons for this proposed transfer and the expenditure involved in that?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The reasons are that Salem is a good centre for handloom art; and the expenditure involved is not more than Rs. 2 lakhs.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if similar Textile Institutes are going to be set up in other parts of India; if so, has Government any plan in this respect?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir, another Institute has been set up at Banaras.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know whether this is linked up with the question of industrial estate?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, this is a scheme under the All India Handloom Board and it has no connection with the industrial estate or small-scale industries.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या उत्तर बिहार में टैक्सटाइल मिल की स्थापना होने जा रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : यह सवाल इन्स्टीच्यूट के साथ ताल्लुक रखता है। टैक्सटाइल मिल से इसका कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

Middle Income Group Housing Scheme

*4. **Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the progress made in the housing scheme for the Middle Income Group?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Eddy): Subsequent to May, 1956, when I stated in the House that the Scheme was under active consideration and that I hoped a decision would be taken in four to six months' time, Parliamentary Committee 'D' on Social Services (Sub-Committee on Housing) recommended that the

Scheme be deleted from the Second Five Year Plan and that the amount of Rs. 3 crores provided for it in the Plan be diverted to other Housing Schemes in the Plan. This recommendation has been accepted by the Planning Commission. The Commission have, however, recommended that the possibility of the Life Insurance Corporation's advancing loans to the Middle Income Group should be investigated. This is being done.

Tobacco Imports

*5. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industries be pleased to state:

(a) how much unmanufactured tobacco has been imported from the U.S.A. upto the 28th February, 1957 under the Agricultural Commodities Agreement of 1956;

(b) the price of tobacco agreed to; and

(c) how Government propose to dispose it of?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No imports of tobacco have been made so far in pursuance of the agreement.

(b) and (c). Certain quantity of high grade virginia tobacco is imported into the country each year by cigarette manufacturers for blending with Indian tobacco for production of high grade cigarettes. The imports under the present agreement will also be made by cigarette manufacturers at prices to be negotiated by them with American suppliers.

Dr. Rama Rao: The hon. Minister has referred to ordinary imports by cigarette manufacturers. But I am referring to the Surplus Commodities Agreement according to which the Government has agreed to import 6 million lbs. of tobacco. This is far in excess of ordinary use or requirements. How does Government propose to dispose of this, and what is the price Government has agreed to pay?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The answer to that is covered by part (a) of my reply that so far no imports have been

made in pursuance of the agreement. It is true that 6 million lbs. are to be imported during the next three years. And the price, as I have said in parts (b) and (c) of the reply, will be negotiated between the counterpart manufacturers here and the exporters in America.

Dr. Rama Rao: The hon. Minister knows that Andhra in particular is finding it very difficult to dispose of its virginia tobacco and we are trying to sell it to the Soviet Union and China. In view of this, how does Government propose to dispose of these six million lbs. when we are not able to sell our own tobacco?

Shri Manubhai Shah: These factors have been taken into consideration in arriving at the agreement. The normal import of this superior type of virginia tobacco is essential for the very blending and disposal of our tobacco, about which the hon. Member is anxious. And that is why we have negotiated these imports.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the virginia tobacco produced in Andhra is not of a high grade; and if it is, may I know why extra imports are made from America?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the hon. Member refers to the export of virginia tobacco from this country he will find that 75 million lbs. are exported every year. In order to enable the production of certain varieties of special grade virginia tobacco, we are going to import only 2.5 million lbs. as against this figure of 75 million lbs.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether Government is sure that the kind of superior quality of tobacco which Government says is used for the manufacture of high class cigarettes is not at all produced in India?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir, Government have verified this fact and therefore permitted these small imports.

Foreign Publicity

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 7.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The

answer is a long one, about a page in length. May I read it, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is about half a page only.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is more than half a page because there is something more on the back side of the sheet also.

Mr. Speaker: As there are not many questions today, the hon. Minister may read out the answer.

*7. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to intensify foreign publicity during 1956-57; and

(b) the amount spent on the same during that period?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The needs of India's external publicity abroad are kept constantly under review and from time to time such steps are taken as, in the opinion of Government, would make it more effective.

Some of the important measures taken during the year 1956-57 are as follows:

(i) Two new publicity offices were opened at Belgrade and Damascus. A Publicity Assistant was added to our Mission in Jeddah also.

(ii) The existing Publicity Establishments at Djakarta, Kathmandu, Cairo, New York, Washington, Sydney and Karachi were further strengthened.

(iii) Mobile Cinema Vans were provided to our Missions in Accra, Bangkok, Colombo, Djakarta, Karachi, Lahore and Nairobi. The supply of vans to Sikkim and Dacca is also under way.

(iv) A large number of pamphlets and feature articles including special pamphlets in a number of foreign languages on Kashmir and Goa problems were prepared and supplied to our Missions abroad for wide distribution.