

(b) how it compares with that of previous year?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). The total value of shoes exported by the National Small Industries Corporation Limited during 1963 was Rs. 77.82 lakhs as against Rs. 50.63 lakhs exported during 1962.

Air-Conditioned Vestibules

403. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether some more air-conditioned vestibules are going to be acquired; and

(b) whether these can be manufactured in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) These will be manufactured in the country importing the generating and air-conditioning equipment.

Lemon Grass Oil Board

404. Shri A. V. Raghavan: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a lemon grass oil board; and

(b) the steps being taken to meet the growing competition from other producing countries and the pressure from synthetic citral?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Lemongrass Development and Export Advisory Committee has been set up to advise Government on the development and export of lemongrass oil.

The Committee is considering measures for improving cultivation and distillation methods of lemongrass to improve the quality and to

bring down the cost of production of lemongrass oil in order to be able to compete favourably with synthetic citral and lemongrass oil from other sources of supply.

Package Paper Mill in Kerala

405. Shri A. V. Raghavan: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to establish a package paper mill in Kerala with American collaboration;

(b) if so, where it will be located; and

(c) when it will be commissioned?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) A licence has been issued to a private company to set up a mill for Kraft Liner and Media, based on hard woods. Collaboration with some Canadian firms is envisaged but no final decision has so far been taken by the licensee.

(b) Angamall, Ernakulam.

(c) As the collaboration agreement has not yet been finalised, it is not possible to say exactly when the plant will be commissioned.

Exports to Australia

406. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations have of late been held for export of Indian engineering and industrial goods to Australia;

(b) if so, the extent to which orders for such goods have since been secured; and

(c) the specific items ordered for?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Discussions