

Shri Manubhai Shah: A permanent incumbent has not so far been appointed; but we are in a very great search for a permanent director. As soon as we get one, we shall appoint.

Hosiery Industry

*1829. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of Ludhiana Hosiery to South-East Asian countries has decreased substantially; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such decrease?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) It is not possible to assess the trend in export of Ludhiana Hosiery to any destination because the bulk of the Hosiery exported from this city is sent by post parcel and no figures of such exports are readily available.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Damani: What is the total export of hosiery goods during 1957-58 and what special efforts are being taken to augment its export?

Shri Manubhai Shah: In 1955, it was about 44 lakhs and in 1956 it was about 45.44 lakhs. It is slightly on the decline during the current year. Therefore, we are trying to take further steps and to find out whether it could be augmented or at least maintained at a stationary level.

Shri Hem Raj: The hon. Minister has told us that there are no figures available so far as the hosiery industry in Punjab is concerned. May I know whether at least in future the figures will be kept so that we could have the statistics for helping the export sometime or other?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is very difficult to keep figures State-wise and city-wise in such a big country as

India, but it is our endeavour to see that whenever we find that a particular area or a particular place is suffering, a local study is made. But no permanent arrangement at this stage can be made.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: The hon. Minister said that there is no figure kept separately for different industries just like the Punjab hosiery industry. May I know then what is the basis of assessing the total export of hosiery goods from this country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have given the total export figure. They are always recorded in the books, in connection with the maintenance of the export licences, and what they have released up to a period. But when it comes to a particular town or a particular city, it becomes very difficult.

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi: May I know whether Government have investigated into the causes of the shortfall in the export?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. The causes have been well known. There are now competitive markets elsewhere. Those countries in South-East Asia which were importing hosiery from us have also started their own industry, and it is a common phenomena in all consumer goods. That is why we have to be constantly on the alert.

Mr. Speaker: Shri P. B. Banerji. Absent.

Shri P. B. Banerji: I am putting the question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members will speak loudly. Sometimes, hon. Members get up and their voices, as though like lightning, drop down suddenly. They do not put the question audibly. Therefore, I have to look round this side and that side to find out whether the question has been put or not.

Hindustan Antibiotics (Private) Ltd.

*1830. **Shri P. B. Banerji:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Unstarred Question No. 521 on the 24th February, 1958 and state what are the difficulties of Government in vialling and marketing Penicillin themselves instead of engaging private firms for the purpose?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The present vialling capacity of Hindustan Antibiotics (Private) Limited is only about 8 million mega units of penicillin against a total production of slightly over 21 million mega units of finished penicillin. Steps have been taken to increase this vialling capacity by another 8 million mega units by the installation of a new fully automatic plant which is expected to be received during the current financial year. Penicillin is also being given to other bottlers, who have been importing penicillin hitherto, for vialling and marketing.

Shri P. B. Banerji: May I know whether the price at which penicillin is sold to the consumers has been fixed by the Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir as far as our penicillin sales are concerned.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that a part of the whole of this factory is going to be handed over to a foreign firm for the manufacture of streptomycin?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir. If I may say so, there is a slight misunderstanding in the mind of the hon. Member. Nothing is going to be handed over to anybody. But we are going to expand the factory in the public sector for the manufacture of streptomycin and dehydro streptomycin for which an agreement for technical collaboration has been entered into with an American firm of Merk, Sharp and Dahome.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it not causing grave concern to the interests of a pure Indian production if we are handing over the work to a foreign firm.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Again he is repeating the same thing. There is no handing over at all. The question is one of expanding the capacity and diversifying production. There is no indigenous production of streptomycin in the country at all.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know when our country will become self-supporting and what is the amount of foreign exchange savings thereby?

Shri Manubhai Shah: By 1960, we hope the streptomycin production will begin. Our requirements of streptomycin are expected about 45,000 kilogrammes, as estimated today, and that will be fully met.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: What is the saving in foreign exchange?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The saving will be about Rs. 1½ crores per annum.

गंधक का आयात

* १८३२ श्री पद्म देव : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५७-५८ में कुल कितना गंधक वाहन से मंगाया गया और उसकी कुल आवश्यकता कितनी थी ; और

(ख) क्या तत्कालीन जिला माहसु, हिमाचल प्रदेश में गंधक के खानों में गंधक निकालने पर विचार किया जा रहा है ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मनुभाई शह) :

(क) १९५७-५८ के सन्तुलन साल में हुए आन्तरिक आयात के अकेले अभी उपलब्ध नहीं है। अगस्त-सितम्बर, १९५७ की अवधि में ४३,८१८ टन गंधक वाहन से मंगाया गया। गंधक की कुल वार्षिक आवश्यकता तकरीबन १ लाख टन के आस पास है।

(ख) जी नहीं।