

(c) No. It is a fact that since the cost of a locally recruited member of the staff is less, it has been decided or proposed as an economy measure that certain posts hitherto held by India-based staff should hereafter be held by locally recruited staff. In such cases, however, the India-based staff concerned is transferred to other stations and the question of retrenchment does not arise.

(d) The desired information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

Handlooms

1266. Shri Sadhu Ram: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of handlooms installed during the year 1957-58 State-wise; and

(b) the quantity of cloth produced by them?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) Information is not available.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Trade Delegation

1267. Shri Sadhu Ram: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian Trade Delegations which visited foreign countries during the year 1957;

(b) the countries they visited;

(c) the outcome of their visit; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on these delegations?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 123].

Sheet Glass

1268. Shri Subbiah Ambalam: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirements of sheet glass in India;

(b) the names of glass industries manufacturing sheet glass, their installed capacity and the actual production; and

(c) how the cost of production of sheet glass compares with the imported sheet glass?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) The present demand of sheet glass in the country is about 60 million sq. feet.

(b) The names and installed capacities of various sheet glass manufacturing units are given in Statement 'A' laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 124]. The production of sheet glass during 1957 was 54.21 million sq. ft. and during January-June, 1958, 36.21 million sq. ft.

(c) The comparison of fair ex-works price of indigenous sheet glass as estimated by the Tariff Commission in their Report (1957) on the Industry with the c.i.f. price of imported glass is given in the Statement 'B' laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 124].

Trade with U.S.S.R.

1269. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian markets are favourably impressed by the Soviet goods; and

(b) if so, what is the balance of trade during 1957-58?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) Government are not aware of any