

Soda-Ash Factories

437. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Soda-Ash Factories established in India so far, and

(b) the number proposed to be established during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

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

(a) Two

(b) Three new units and the expansion of one of the existing factories

Competition to Export Trade from West Germany

438. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export trade is facing a competition from West Germany;

(b) if so, what are the commodities which are adversely affected and in which foreign markets, and

(c) the extent to which our export trade has been affected thereby?

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

(a) to (c) Both West Germany and India are exporters to European, Asian and African markets of certain types of manufactured goods such as cotton textiles, art silk fabrics and light engineering goods. Indian products in these markets face competition from several competitors other than West Germany also

Viet-Nam

439. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) how many cases of complaints or irregularities were brought to the

notice of (i) Viet-Minh authorities and (ii) Viet-Nam authorities by the International Commission for Supervision and Control during the period August to December, 1958, and

(b) how many of them were dealt with satisfactorily?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b) The report of the International Commission for Supervision and Control for this period is still under preparation. As soon as it is published the answer will be available

Accidents in Coal Mines

440. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) the number of accidents which took place in coal mines during the period from the 1st September to the 31st December, 1958,

(b) the number of casualties; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) 970

(b) 74 killed and 933 seriously injured

(c) The information is not readily available

Loans for Construction of Houses in Delhi

441. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state

(a) the number of persons in Delhi to whom loans were given for construction of houses during 1957-58 and 1958-59 under Low Income Group Housing Scheme,

(b) whether some persons among them already own houses;

(c) whether the amounts given as loan have been actually spent on the construction of houses; and

(d) if not, the action taken by Government in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Loans under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme were sanctioned to 219 persons during 1957-58 and 146 persons during the period April-December, 1958

(b) to (d) No case has so far come to the notice of the Government in which a borrower either already owned a house or utilised the loan amount for a purpose other than the construction of his house, sanctioned under the Scheme

Cottage Industries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

442 Shri D C Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken so far to develop some cottage industries in Andaman and Nicobar and Laccadive Islands, and

(b) the results achieved?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix I annexure No 107]

Trade with Middle East Countries

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Shri Ram Krishan

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) the present trade position with Middle East countries,

(b) the important items of exports to and import from these countries during the years 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958, and

(c) the steps taken to increase the trade with these countries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix I annexure No 108]

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase trade with the Middle East Countries —

(1) Trade agreements and treaties of Commerce and Friendship have been concluded with Egypt, Iraq, and Syria

(2) Trade and Trade-cum-Goodwill delegations were invited from Sudan, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Iran to visit India to see for themselves the wide range of goods manufactured in this country. In the recent past delegations sponsored by Export Promotion Councils for Engineering goods, Silk and Rayon Textiles, Plastics and Linoleum, Tobacco and Chemicals and Allied Products visited some of the countries in the Middle East to explore markets for Indian goods

(3) Trade centres, show rooms, or show cases are maintained in Cairo, Tehran, Jeddah and Damascus for giving visual publicity to Indian goods. It has been decided to open a Tea-Centre at Cairo. Proposals for opening show rooms in Baghdad and Addis Ababa are under active consideration

(4) India participated in the Damascus International Fair and in the International Exhibition held in Kabul. A wholly Indian Exhibition was organised in Khartoum. It has been decided to hold an Indian exhibition in Baghdad in March, 1959. Proposals for