

(c) the number of employees who have been given loans to build their houses; and

(d) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has undertaken a programme for building quarters at Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) 2588.

(b) 235.

(c) 103 employees have been given loans direct. In addition to this 104 quarters are proposed to be purchased from D.D.A. and handed over to the housing society of the staff, payment for which has been made by L.I.C. direct to D.D.A.

(d) Yes, Sir. 320 quarters are already under construction at Shahdara and there is a proposal for purchase from D.D.A. of 24 quarters. In addition, it is proposed to construct 14 quarters—9 in L.I.C. plot at Daryaganj and 5 at Rohtak Road.

Popularity of Indian furniture in foreign countries

1941. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian furniture is getting popularity abroad;

(b) if so, the names of such countries and the amount of foreign exchange earned by India during the last three years; and

(c) the measures Government have taken to extend more and more facilities to this industry regarding shipping?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the countries to which Indian furniture has been exported during the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 are Abu Dhabi, Bahare in Island, Bangladesh, Dubai, German Federal Republic, Kuwait, Malaysia Muscat, Nepal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Siera Leone and Zambia. The value of exports of this item during 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 was Rs. 65. Rs. 67 and Rs. 72 lakhs respectively.

(c) Shipping facilities consisting of provision of adequate and timely shipping space and getting freight rate adjustments where made out are afforded to the industry.

Delay in importing newsprint quota by STC

1943. SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation is responsible for the delay in importing newsprint quota from abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures have been taken against those who are responsible for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Demonstration by Officers of L.I.C.

* 1944. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Officers of the L.I.C. had staged a mass demonstration on 3rd August, 1973 to voice their grievances in respect of breach of agreement by the management; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to remove their grievances?