

(b) whether there is a good market for them in U.S.A., Australia, Egypt, Ceylon, etc.;

(c) if so, whether our export supply is less than the foreign demands;

(d) how many firms are at present manufacturing the bags; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to start more firms in India?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Actual production figures are not readily available. The production capacity is of the order of approximately 166 million bags.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The production capacity is ample.

(d) Nine recognised firms.

(e) The cases of two more firms are under consideration.

Import of Goods

22. { Dr. P. N. Khan:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri N. R. Laskar:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce complained to the Planning Commission at their meeting on the 20th August, 1962 at Delhi about importing of certain goods which could easily be manufactured in this country thereby saving a huge amount of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, which are the goods it has indicated; and

(c) what is Planning Commission's view in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Planning and Labour and for

Employment (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) and (b). At the meeting with the Planning Commission, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry made certain suggestions for reducing imports through the development of indigenous capacity. Some of the items suggested by the Federation for manufacture in the country with a view to reducing imports are spare parts and components, industrial diesel engines, conveying, hoisting excavating and road construction equipment, finished dyes etc.

(c) The Planning Commission agree that production of such items as could be economically undertaken with a view to reducing imports should be given priority. A Technical Panel on Import Substitution has been set up to evolve detailed proposals in co-operation with the industries concerned.

Building for Foreign Office

23. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1443 on the 22nd August, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the proposal for constructing a building for the foreign office has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the nature of proposal accepted and programme of construction drawn up?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). It has been decided that no separate building will now be constructed for the Foreign Office. As and when new office buildings in the general pool are constructed and accommodation therein is made available to Ministries, the accommodation in the North and South Blocks will be placed at the disposal of the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence, Home Affairs and Finance.