

### Indian Handicrafts

**760. Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for Indian Handicrafts of all types at Aden;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to boost up the export; and

(c) when the demand of the market is likely to be met?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) There is a demand for Indian Handicrafts of all types at Aden. During 1962-63, handicrafts worth Rs. 19,15,897 were exported to Aden.

(b) and (c). With a view to promoting export of handicrafts, the Export Promotion Scheme for handicrafts has been recently revised to provide for increased incentives. The Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, have under consideration a proposal for arranging sale of handicrafts through the depot to be set up at the 'Steamer Point' by the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society. It is, however, not possible to give an exact idea of time by when it would be possible to meet the entire demand of the market.

### Refrigerators

**761. Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scope for export of refrigerators made in India; and

(b) if so, the attempts being made to find out its market?

**The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Scope for export of Indian refrigerators is limited, mainly due to high cost of production and consequent uncompetitive prices quoted by Indian

exporters and consumer's preference for established foreign brands.

(b) Efforts are, however, being made by Indian manufacturers to explore markets in foreign countries. In order to strengthen the competitive position of our refrigerators, the exporters are permitted to import against exports, raw materials, components etc. not indigenously available, besides allocation of indigenous items of iron and steel at concessional prices. They are also assisted in display of their wares in exhibitions, fairs and show rooms abroad as also in foreign publicity.

### Durgapur Steel Plant

**762. Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme before Government to regularise the services of the temporary staff who are serving for the last 3 to 4 years in the Durgapur Steel Project;

(b) if not, what kind of benefits will be given to them; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the workers went on strike for some time as their services were not recognised?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):**

(a) On the operation side, employees are appointed on temporary basis only for work which is essentially of a temporary nature or involves temporary increase in permanent work. Those who complete 12 months continuous service in one or more posts in connection with temporary increase in permanent work are treated as permanent employees. However temporary staff on the construction side, particularly of work-charged/Muster Roll establishment, cannot be given permanent employment for obvious reasons. They are considered for absorption in regular posts to the extent possible;

(b) Retrenched employees are given the benefits admissible under the law.

(c) No, Sir.