

Manufacture of Quality Glass by Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited

122. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited is manufacturing quality glass for optical lenses;

(b) whether it is comparable with the glass available in European Countries like France;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether total production of ophthalmic glass by the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited is adequate to meet the ophthalmic glass needs of the country; and

(e) the value of import of ophthalmic glasses/lenses during 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The total production of Ophthalmic Glass by BOGL is not adequate to meet the ophthalmic glass needs of the country.

(e) CIF value of import of ophthalmic glasses/lenses blanks is of the order of about Rs. 20 crores per annum.

Use of Foreign Brand Names

123. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinational companies are using foreign brand names to augment their business; and

(b) if so, Governments action to curb their activities?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Under the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act 1958, there is no separate definition of foreign trade marks. Under the existing law, there is no restriction on the use of foreign trade marks provided it does not involve any direct or indirect consideration in foreign exchange. Any trade mark can be used without registration or before or after the expiry of registration without the protection afforded by the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act. However, while granting foreign collaboration approvals, a standard condition is laid down that foreign brand names will not be allowed for use on the products for internal sales, although there is no objection to their use on products to be exported. Violation of any condition of the foreign collaboration approval would entail cancellation of the approval.

Direct Flight from Jeddah to Calicut

124. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of persons booking air passage from Jeddah to Calicut via Bombay every month;

(b) whether the Air India received any memorandum from the Jeddah Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre during May, 1990;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have decided to introduce a direct flight from Jeddah to Calicut; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF