

## STATEMENT

The following steps have been taken:—

- (i) It has been decided that all Small Scale Industrial Units employing 10 or more workers should get themselves registered under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act with the State Directors of Industries and submit quarterly statistical returns in prescribed forms.
- (ii) A Standing Committee on Statistics has been constituted to review the existing condition of available statistical information, to recommend co-ordination and integration in the collection of statistics by the Centre and the States, and to consider long term measures for collecting statistics in a co-ordinated manner.

## Khadi and Village Industries Board

- \*634. { Shri Kodiyan;  
Shri Narayanankutty Menon;  
Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board have now decided to reduce the salary of Ambar Charkha instructors, by about Rs. 19 each and also to close down Neera Bhavans in Kerala;

(b) how many Neera Bhavans exist at present under the State Boards in Madras and Bombay; and

(c) the number of tappers who will become unemployed consequent on the closure of Neera Bhavans?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 79.]

## Lean Gas Plant, Sindri

\*635. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1888 on the 18th April, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the lean gas plant of Sindri Fertilisers and chemicals Ltd. has since started producing its guaranteed capacity; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) The Lean Gas Plant has not yet been taken over by the Sindri Management as the contractors have not been able to demonstrate that the plant can produce gas to the designed capacity.

(b) There are some defects in the construction of the plant which make it difficult to run it at a high rate for prolonged periods. The question of removing these defects is under discussion with the contractors.

## Irregularities in Issue of Passports

636. { Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri;  
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal;  
Shri S. A. Mehdi;  
Dr. Gangadhara Siva;  
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in 'Statesman' dated the 31st October, 1959, to the effect that about 300 Indian nationals due to disembark at Genova (Italy) on the 30th October, 1959 en route to Britain were prevented from landing by the Italian Police because of certain faults and irregularities in their passports;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of India in regard thereto?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):**

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). About 300 persons of Indian origin travelling on Indian and U.K. and Colonies passports arrived at Geona on board ss ROMA on 29-10-1959. The Italian Immigration authorities checked their passports and found that 138 of them were travelling on forged passports. The remaining 162 persons were allowed to land. Some of the latter had, at first, difficulty in obtaining visas for transit through France but transit facilities through France and facilities for entry into the U.K. were later arranged and they reached the United Kingdom.

The 138 persons whose passports were found invalid by the Italian authorities were at first refused permission to land. Later, the Italian authorities allowed them to disembark from the ship but detained them. These 138 persons are still in Italy where they have been placed by the Italian Government in two camps. Discussions are proceeding between the Government of Italy and the Government of India in regard to these persons.

#### **Manganese Ore Trade**

\*637. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 531 on the 23rd February, 1959 and state:

(a) how many offers of contingent contracts have been received from the mine owners with reference to the recommendation made by the Committee for promotion of manganese ore trade to the effect that the State Trading Corporation and shippers should enter into contingent contracts with mine-owners; and

(b) the result of the consideration given to such offers?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Export of Iron Ore**

\*638. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the tonnage of iron ore for export to Japan agreed to be lifted during the year 1959-60;

(b) whether there is not adequate demand for iron ore in the internal market by manufacturers in the public and private sectors; and

(c) whether the price agreed to be charged from parties in Japan is reasonable.

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) About 22 lac tons.

(b) Internal demand of iron ore both at present and in the foreseeable future is small compared to vast reserves available in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### **Middle Income Group Housing Scheme**

\*639. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loans drawn by various State Governments in 1958-59 and this year so far from the Life Insurance Corporation under the Middle Income Group Housing Scheme have been utilized only by a few States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) and (b). The Middle Income Group Housing Scheme was finalised and intimated to State Governments only in February, 1959, and funds released to them in March, 1959. It was necessary for the State Governments to complete certain preliminaries such as formulation of Rules, and organising the method and machinery for the administration of the Scheme, before they could commence disbursement of loans. Many of the State Governments have already