

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes. The International Tea Market Expansion Board is incorporated under the U. K. Companies Act as a company limited by guarantee but not having a capital divided into shares.

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

(d) The administration of the Board is carried on by the Executive Vice-Chairman, who is a paid employee of the Board, under the guidance of an elected Chairman of the Board. The Board itself functions under the directions of the Central Tea Boards of the member countries, which are the Board's Governing Bodies.

PRODUCTS OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

*954. Shri Balakrishnan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state.

(a) whether Indian goods which are manufactured in small scale industries are exported to foreign countries;

(b) whether the standard of goods manufactured in small scale industries in India is the same as those of similar foreign goods;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to standardize the quality of such goods manufactured in India, and

(d) if so, what steps were taken so far?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although generally speaking, the quality of small-scale goods manufactured in India is not of a high standard; in some cases like the sports goods industry and the carpet industry, our products can compare favourably with those of foreign countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India have passed the Indian Standards Institution (Certification Mark) Act No. XXXVI of 1952, authorising the Indian Standards Institution to formulate standard specifications of goods manufactured. The Institution have set up over 20 sectional committees, which are at present engaged in development of standards for articles of importance to cottage and small scale industries; 24 Indian standards for such articles have already been published and over 100 are under consideration.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN U.P.

*955. Shri Krishna Chandra: (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to

state the number and particulars of the Community Projects in U.P.?

(b) What is the amount that is proposed to be spent on each of these Projects?

(c) Are any estimates prepared for these Projects and if so, will a copy thereof be laid on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi): The information will be found in paragraph 2 of the Operational Agreement No. 8 regarding Community Development Programme, copies of which were laid on the Table of the House in answer to starred question No. 461 dated 4th June, 1952 in the House of the People.

(b) The information will be found on pages 32 to 34 of the pamphlet "Community Projects—a Draft Outline", copies of which have been circulated to the Members of the House.

(c) The budget proposals which have been received from Uttar Pradesh Government regarding these projects are incomplete and the matter is under communication with that Government.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE

*956. Shri Naaadas: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of the U.S.A. asked India to give up the preferential treatment that is being accorded to imports from the U.K.;

(b) if so, what is the attitude taken by the Indian Government; and

(c) whether the question of Imperial Preference was discussed in the course of discussions leading to the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One of the aims of GATT is "the substantial reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade and the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international commerce". Some discussion of a general nature on the preferential tariff treatment enjoyed by U. K. and her Colonies under the Indo-U.K. Trade Agreement, 1939, took place during the negotiations leading to the Agreement referred to.