

MANUFACTURE OF CRAFT PAPER FROM BANANA STUMPS

•397. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government have licensed or have encouraged any proposal for the manufacture of craft paper from banana stumps in regions where there are extensive banana plantations?

TEDS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY -(SHRI N. KANUNGO): One party was licensed for manufacture of corrugated medium and liner paper and printing and writing paper and also pulp, using banana stems as raw material. The licence, however, had to be cancelled because the licensee failed to take 'effective steps' for the establishment of the undertaking even though extension of time was granted.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Since there is a large cultivation of banana in this country, what steps are being taken to encourage by-products such as fibre, powder, etc. to be manufactured out of banana? Large quantities are grown in this country.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: As far as paper manufacture is concerned, any proposal for the manufacture of paper is welcome, from this source and even this party can apply for a licence when he is ready in time. As for the efforts of the Government there is a centre somewhere in the Mangalore district which is making experiments about the utilisation of fibres.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the Minister aware that in the South American countries banana fibre produces rope which is stronger than jute fibre and it is being used widely? Why are not steps being taken similar to this country where large quantities of banana are grown?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I do not know about the strength of rope but I have mentioned that there is a centre of the All-India Handicrafts Board in

the Mangalore District where they are working out the methods of utilisation of fibre from banana stems.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Does the Government have any information of any other country using banana stumps for this purpose, particularly in the West Indies and the South American countries?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I have no information at the moment.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: May I know if there was any other application in this line?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, that was the only application.

*398. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2761 infra.]

♦399. [The questioner (Shri Chandra Shekhar) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2761-62 infra.]

INDIAN TRADE FAIR AT MOSCOW

♦400. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL, TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who were permitted to go to Moscow in July, 1963 in connection with the Indian Trade Fair there;

(b) what is the break-up of this number profession-wise; and

(c) the number of ladies amongst them?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) 215 persons.

(b) I—Non-officials—

(i) Trading parties	124
(ii) Journalists, etc.	5
(iii) Bank representatives	3
(iv) Catering staff (cooks, etc).	6
TOTAL	138

II—Officials—

(i) Sponsored by the Ministry of International Trade	54
(ii) Other Government Undertakings, Commodity Boards, etc. . .	23
TOTAL . . .	77

(c) 26.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that some other persons had also applied to go to Moscow and they were refused permission?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Several were refused.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know on what basis the journalists were selected?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Those parties which had participated in exhibitions were allowed to take one and in some cases two representatives. As far as the officials are concerned, they were selected on the basis of their utility to the Exhibition from the architectural point of view, from the handloom, handicraft and the exhibition point of view.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: My question refers to journalists.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: About journalists, the P.R.O. of the Government of India was requested that he may select five people because there are different exhibitions where we cannot send all. So there is a system in the Ministry that sometimes they select some people, sometimes others, like that five people were selected.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know if the State of Jammu and Kashmir was represented on this fair by the Trade Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir State and he was not included in the delegation and he was there on that special status, peculiar status representing Jammu and Kashmir State?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Always Kashmir has a special status in our minds and hearts. That was the status accorded to him in Moscow.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if any representatives of the Handloom Board and the Handicrafts Board were sent?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Seven people were sent.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the number of Indians sent to conduct the exhibition was very inadequate and a large number of Russians had to be included as employees?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Not only large numbers of Russians but we drafted all young men and Indian sisters in the Moscow University over and above the Russians.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if after Mr. Khrushchev pointed out that ivory and sandal wood articles were missing in the exhibits these goods were made available in the exhibition?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: They were not missing. When the exhibits were seen, Mr. Khrushchev was shown by me the sandal wood itself and he said: 'Where is the oil?' We had made the exhibition in what is called the Chapter system where wood was exhibited, oil was not there. Later when we went to the oil section, I gave him the oil.

SHRI A. D. MANI: In answer to Mr. Vajpayee's question the Minister said that six representatives were chosen from the press by the P.R.O. I would like to know who the six representatives were.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I do not have the names here and if the hon. Member is interested, I will pass on the names. Over and above this I may say that the press representatives were informed that if they were prepared to spend their money we would

make the foreign exchange available to them because we did not want that the press should not send as many people as possible.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know whether specimens of Khadi and Khadi products were sent to the exhibition?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes.

DR. GOPAL SINGH: I want to know the names of the journalists.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I will pass on the names to both the Members.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know the cost of foreign exchange on the whole fair in Moscow?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: About Rs. 84 lakhs but that is not the final estimate. The expenditure is only just over. It is about Rs. 84 lakhs.

MANUFACTURE OF SUB-STANDARD ICE IN DELHI

•401. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether sub-standard ice is being manufactured in Delhi on large scale; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to prevent it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (DR. D. S. RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The factories are inspected by the public health staff and ice of unwholesome quality is destroyed.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether he is aware that the ice sold in the area where Members of Parliament live is very often of sub-standard quality?

DR. D. S. RAJU: It has not been brought to our notice but there is no factory in Delhi which is not licensed. There are 25 factories and they are all licensed and the number of Food Inspectors has been raised from 8 to 21. So vigorous action is taken and every day, for the past 3½ months, some maunds of ice are being destroyed. In the month of May 1963, 2,980 maunds were destroyed, in June 1,628 maunds, in July 988 maunds and up to August 4th, 376 maunds were destroyed.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether it is a fact that in some of these bars rats were frozen?

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Not this year.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government has any standard to find out how much of it is ice and how much of it is icecream because sometimes we do not have any cream at all?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any answer to that?

DR. D. S. RAJU: No.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: He stated that thousands of maunds of ice are being destroyed. I would like to know whether any other action against those manufacturers is being taken and, if so, what is the action taken?

DR. D. S. RAJU: The licences are cancelled and the factories are closed.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: How many licences have been thus cancelled and how many factories have been closed in the past six months?

DR. D. S. RAJU: I don't have the exact figures.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I ask whether the Government have ascertained that all the water tanks in the ice factories are covered and¹