

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 Handicraft 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