

be pointed out to us and we will not lag behind in taking appropriate action.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Government . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No more. There are 32 questions. Next question.

SHOE INDUSTRY IN AGRA

*494. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agra shoe industry is facing a serious crisis for want of adequate orders;

(b) whether some orders for supply of shoes to foreign countries were received and if so, from which countries and for what number of pairs of shoes; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government are taking to help the industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI Shah): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Export of Shoe made in Agra

(a) The export orders constitute only a small proportion of the production at Agra. The total production of shoes in Agra is estimated at 4 to 5 million pairs annual (all varieties and sizes), of which the export orders of 4 to 5 lakhs pairs a year is only a minor fraction. However, the Fabricators producing shoes for export have been expressing fears that unless further orders are secured from abroad they may face difficulties.

(b) Orders for export of shoes are received by the State Trading Corporation. They have sub-contracted some of them for execution by the

National Small Industries Corporation who have in turn placed orders on small scale fabricators. Details regarding these orders are given below:—

Year	Country from where orders were received	No. of pairs ordered
1956	Russia . . .	2,50,000
1957	Russia . . .	65,000
	Poland . . .	54,000
1958	Russia . . .	1,02,000
1959	Russia . . .	46,000
	German Democratic Republic	1,80,000
	Bulgaria . . .	3,000
1960	Russia . . .	1,21,000
1961	Russia . . .	1,17,000

(c) In order to assist the shoe fabricators with export orders the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. have established a 'Procurement Centre' at Agra. In 1961-62 orders have been given at the Agra Centre for supply of 76,400 pairs of shoes to Russia. In order to explore possibilities of getting further orders from abroad, an Officer of the State Trading Corporation and another Officer from the National Small Industries Corporation had recently gone abroad and have secured orders for 1,10,000 pairs from Russia and for 28,000 pairs from the German Democratic Republic. These orders will be distributed to small fabricators shortly.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Sir, the Statement shows that Russia is the biggest purchaser of shoes from India. What sort of shoes are purchased by Russia and of what value?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, there are different sizes which are suitable to their requirements.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know whether there is any agency working in Russia for supplying shoes from India?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Well, we have no agency, but our own Embassy has got trade commissioners who look after all these interests.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that multi-point Sales Tax is standing in the way of shoe workers at Agra producing shoes at competitive rates?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, that is not so, because the multi-point tax is only a small fraction of the total price, and we are also trying to straighten out this matter so that the last-point tax is not charged.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, is it not a fact that our export trade in shoes suffers on account of the fact that the Government is insisting that all export orders should be routed through co-operative societies?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: No, Sir, far from it. Even though we would like to give preference to Co-operative Societies, there is no such insistence at all.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Is the Government aware that many countries in Europe are short of shoes and are in great need of them? What steps have the Government taken to contact these countries for the supply of Indian shoes to them?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We have to make efforts to sell them.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, what other facilities these poor shoemakers are being given so that they may export these shoes in an easy way?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As I have said in the main answer, the production itself is being promoted through diverse means, not only for exports, which is, of course, most important, but for local consumption also. We have opened a centre there. We have also a small centre to manufacture wooden lasts and various other technical matters connected with it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

CHINESE SCHEME TO CONSTRUCT A
GARTOK-RUDOK RAILWAY LINE
ACROSS INDIAN TERRITORY

*495. SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chinese are preparing schemes for constructing a railway line across Indian territory connecting Gartok and Rudok in Tibet with the city of Kashgar in Sinkiang province; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Government have no information on the subject.

(b) Does not arise.

*496. *The questioner (Shri Nawab Singh Chauhan) was absent. For answer vide cols. 2881-82 infra.]*

COMPULSORY INSPECTION OF HANDI-
CRAFTS FOR EXPORT

*497. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether Government are considering a scheme requiring compulsory inspection of all the handicrafts to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): An *Ad Hoc* Committee on Quality Control and Pre-shipment Inspection, set up by Government, has recommended compulsory inspection of certain items of handcrafts meant for export. The report of the said Committee is being examined.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, when this Committee is likely to be instituted and why this Committee has decided to have quality control only for a few handicraft goods meant for export?