

under the Act? In reply to that letter this is what he—Shri Nanda—said:

“As regards the question of procedure to be followed in the matter of election of the employees’ representatives to the Board of the exempted factories, I hope the matter will be finalised soon.”

The letter was dated April, 1958.

May I know, Sir, what action has been taken in the matter in view of the fact that a large number of such exempted undertakings fill their Trustees Board with their yes men and do not have proper election and also that the workers of the Indian Iron and Steel Company at Burnpur do not know who actually belong to the Trustee Board?

SHRI ABID ALI: The same reply as I have given earlier. The number of establishments is 7,000. The hon. Member should not wait for Parliament to meet and question us. He can write to us and certainly we will ourselves supply the information.

\*87. [Transferred to the 28th April, 1959.]

SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATION'S COMPLAINT ABOUT THE QUALITY OF INDIAN TEXTILES AND TOYS

\*88. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swedish Trade Delegation which visited India in March, 1959, informed him that the patterns of Indian textiles exported to their country were old and the finish was not good and the Indian toys were of very poor quality; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to improve the quality?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) and (b). No specific reference was made by the

Swedish Delegation to the quality of Indian textiles and toys. Facilities were, however, provided to the members of the Delegation to come in direct contact with the Indian exporters in order to explain their preferences regarding quality and designs.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a press conference statement made by two members of the Swedish Trade Delegation that the quality of the textiles and the toys was very inferior and that they should make some improvements to compete in the world market?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, some newspaper report was published but we made enquiries from the members of the Delegation. What they said was that they were interested in the purchase of grey sheetings, towels, bed sheetings, hosiery goods, etc.

As regards designs of the fabrics, they would not suit the Swedish taste and we might have to change the designs and patterns if we wanted to sell them in the Swedish market. They also said that their children liked mechanical toys rather than our handicraft toys. But all this does not necessarily reflect on the quality of our goods.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, if the Swedish Delegation placed orders for textiles, handicrafts, etc. and what are the prospects of improvement of the trade between India and Sweden?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, the members of the Delegation visited Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and other places and facilities were provided for them to come into contact with our exporters and manufacturers and it is expected that trade will materialise in due course. Some talks have taken place and our exporters have understood the requirements of Swedish market better.