

the basis of the price of the whole house collapsed or the price of the part that is affected? What is the basis of this assessment?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: In the assessment of this amount, we took into account only the structure, not the land.

DS. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if there is no arrangement for the Government to take steps even if the occupant does not intimate them about the bad condition of the house?

SHM P. S. NASKAR: No, Sir, that is not the fact. The Corporation authorities have their own people to look around the town and they report to us and we take immediate steps.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, then why those steps were not taken in respect of these particular cases?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: Sometimes it is very difficult to find out the defect which is latent and outsiders cannot enter the premises without permission.

PROPOSAL TO SET UP A SINGLE BODY FOR HANDICRAFTS, HANDLOOM, SILK AND SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES BOARDS.

*612. SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the suggestion made by the Public Accounts Committee in their Seventh Report for the setting up of a common board for the Handicrafts Board, Handloom Board, Silk Board and the Small Scale Industries Board; and

(b) what measures at present exist for co-ordinating their activities and to avoid duplication of staff and expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Co-ordination of activities of the cottage and small industry organisations.

The following measures exist at present for co-ordinating the activities of the cottage and small industry organisations under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry: —

(1) A Co-ordination Committee of Small Industries consisting of representatives of the All-India Boards, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the Planning Commission, the Reserve Bank of India, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Community Development has been set up for discussing subjects of common interest and problems pertaining to the work of all organisations under this Ministry dealing with cottage and small-scale industries.

(2) To effect similar co-ordination at the State level, State Co-ordination Committees of Small Industries have been set up at the instance of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(3) To avoid duplication of staff and expenditure, the export of coir goods has been entrusted to the National Small Industries Corporation and the services of the Handicrafts Development Corporation are being utilised to find export market for khadi fabrics.

(4) The Joint Development Commissioners under the Small-scale Industries Organisations have been made responsible for covering activities relating to handloom and handicrafts industries also during their tours and investigations in their respective regions.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: What is the meaning of "Yes, Sir"? What arrangements have been made to co-ordinate?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The statement is laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: The statement says

something very different. The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee was for the setting up of a common Board for the Handicrafts Board, Handloom Board, Silk Board and the Small Scale Industries Board. But the statement says: "A Co-ordination Committee of Small Industries consisting of representatives of the All-India Boards, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the Planning Commission, the Reserve Bank of India, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Community Development has been set up for discussing subjects of common interest and problems pertaining to the work of all organisations under this Ministry dealing with cottage and small-scale industries." This is not the information that I wanted or what the Public Accounts Committee recommended.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is not possible to have one Board dealing with all the industries, because till 1952 there was one Board and subsequently it was thought that one Board was not competent to handle the problems of different industries, the problems of which were entirely different. Therefore, these Boards are now functioning. It has been found after discussion—after the opinion of the Public Accounts Committee—that maximum savings and economy can be effected by co-ordination. The work of co-ordination is continuing and it is showing good results.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: What is the saving that has been effected? It is said that the maximum saving has been effected. What is the saving that has been effected?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is not in financial terms. It is in the efficiency of the organisation. Duplication in the matter of design and in marketing services and all that is being avoided.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: I would suggest to you, Sir, whether the reply that has been given is a full reply to the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri is there.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I am sorry that the hon. Member, while reading a part of the statement, has emphasised certain phrases, by which he has unfortunately given a different impression—if I may be permitted to say so—not quite a correct impression.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: He may read the statement.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I have read this question and the statement also. The Public Accounts Committee's recommendations were considered by the Ministry. Unfortunately we do not agree with the recommendations. If he wanted the reply to have been given in that way, I am sorry my colleague did not give it. But I want to make it clear that it is not possible for one Board to function and to work all these different industries through one organisation. These are different; their contents are different, the varieties are different, handloom handicrafts, khadi and village industries. The workers are different, the specialists are different. So, it is not possible for one organisation to do all this work. Secondly, the statement merely says—that part which he has read—that there will be a co-ordinating body co-ordinating the work of these Boards only, not of all industries. He said 'all organisations under this Ministry' when he read the statement, but there he did not emphasise this: 'dealing with cottage and small-scale industries.' Therefore, all these bodies working under this Ministry are being co-ordinated by that Committee. But still for the satisfaction of the hon. Member I am prepared to say that we would—I would myself—like to get this examined again. If we can economise or if we can make these bodies, a few of them, into one so that they work together, I shall have no objection. But at the present moment the decision of the Ministry is what has been stated in the statement, and I am prepared to look into that again.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: According to the statement the co-ordination is to

be effected not by a special body but by the various Ministries, the Reserve Bank, etc. May I know, Sir, if a loose co-ordination like this is effective or whether Government is going to have a special co-ordinating machinery?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The co-ordinating machinery consists of officials of the various Boards which is presided over by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. The co-ordinating committee meets almost once in every quarter and common problems are discussed, and common services, as far as possible, are provided for.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Handloom Board and the Chairman of the Silk Board is the same person and that co-ordination between these two Boards is carried on through him?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes, Sir. As far as the Silk Board and the Handloom Board are concerned, the Textile Commissioner happens to be the Chairman of the Boards, but the Boards are different

COMMON MARKET FOR ASIA

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: ♦613. J SHRI M. VALIULLA: I SHRI V. K. DHAGE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a move by some Asian countries to establish a common market for Asia; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India towards the move?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & SHRI N. KANUNGO: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Maheswar Naik.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether the Government thought over this matter, this idea whether they should have a common Asian market or not?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: We have never thought of it because the whole policy of the Government is to foster and encourage multilateral trade. If circumstances arise in future where limited markets may be more profitable, it will be thought of at that moment.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether Government are not aware that there is a move like that by China and other countries?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There is no move about it

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Here is an extract from a speech of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur. He said that he had been told that there had been a move by China and other Asian countries to establish a common market along the lines of that in Western Europe. May I know whether the Minister is aware of that?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The hon. Minister was only referring to a Press report to that effect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is getting ready to speak.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: As my colleague has said, we have no official information or we have not received any official intimation. But what I had said was that there were reports, I had in mind especially the report of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance amongst the Communist countries and the U.S.S.R. I was informed that China was also thinking of joining in that programme. That kind of report was not an official report. I have got it from other sources. Therefore I mentioned that in the matter of exports we have to face very severe competition. On the top of that there are proposals of a Common European Market being