

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: They are of a broad pattern. One is the scheme of industrial estates. As the House knows, in different parts of Andhra and other parts of the country we are establishing industrial estates. There are the production-cum-training centres. Then there is the assistance given to artisans and workmen as loan for buying implements and tools. There is the scheme for marketing and is also the scheme of hire-purchase of machinery.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This assistance is given to the various States, may I know whether it is in the form of loans or grants? If they are loans, what is the rate of interest, or are they free of interest?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As the hon. Member takes great interest in this matter, I may say that in 1956-57 the loans came to Rs. 278 lakhs and the grants Rs. 92 lakhs, making a total of Rs. 370 lakhs. For 1957-58 the figures are Rs. 3 crores as loans and Rs. 1 crore as grants, total Rs. 4 crores. For 1958-59 Rs. 339 lakhs loans and Rs. 115 lakhs grants, total Rs. 454 lakhs. For loans the rate of interest ranges from 2½ per cent. to 4½ per cent.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the Central machinery to see whether these loans and other aids are properly utilised by the industries?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The State Governments have budgets running into crores and they have a vast administrative machinery. They are competent enough to see to this. Even then we have our own machinery for inspection and so on.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: What is the basis on which assistance is given to the various States?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The basis varies. It may be a hundred per cent. outright loan, or 75 per cent. loan and 25 per cent. grant and in some cases a completely outright grant.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: In the case of assistance in the shape of purchase of machinery on the hire-purchase basis, do the Government insist that the purchaser must buy from firms approved by them? Or do they leave it to the industrialist to purchase it from wherever he likes?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Generally the option is left to the small industrialist to purchase it where he likes; but because the Government foots the bill in the hire-purchase system, it has to see that good machinery is purchased.

*279 to *281. [The questioner (Shri Ram Sahai) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 1901-1905 infra.]

SYSTEM OF PROMOTION OF ARTISTES IN THE ALL INDIA RADIO

*282. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dispense with the services of 'C' class artistes in the All India Radio stations all over India and if so, what is their number State-wise;

(b) whether there is a system of promotion of artistes from class 'B' and class 'C' to class 'A' and class 'B' respectively; and

(c) whether the promotion from class 'C' has also been abolished and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN): (a) to (c). Casual artistes who are maintained on the rolls of All India Radio Stations and who are graded into various categories for enabling Stations to pay them certain fees, are not employees of AIR, nor are they given any job. Most of them are carrying on some profession or other and the question of dispensing with their services, therefore, does not arise. As it was found by experience that the broadcast by 'C'

class music artistes led not only to deterioration in the standard of programmes, but also strong protests from listeners, it was decided to discontinue the practice of giving them independent programmes. However, in order to encourage promising talent amongst such students of music and utilise it, it is proposed to organise concerts periodically, called "Sangeet Goshthis", where a number of them will be called and will give performance under the guidance of a senior musician.

The promotion of an artiste to a higher grade depends on the quality of his performance. Artistes who are in the lowest class can always seek promotion by appearing before the Audition Committee and proving their talent.

A statement showing the number of 'C' class casual artistes is laid on the Table of the Sabha. It might be mentioned that it is now decided to convert this class into a "provisional" or "eligible" class hereafter.

STATEMENT

Statewise number of 'C' Class Artistes

Delhi	87
Bombay	672
West Bengal	142
U. P.	107
Madhya Pradesh	92
East Punjab	13
Mysore	323
Andhra Pradesh	361
Orissa	23
Rajasthan	73
Assam	10
Kerala	294
Kashmir	10
Madras	643
Bihar	75

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether in view of the progressive improvement in the standard of the All India Radio music and drama broadcasts, it has become

necessary to do away with the 'C' class artistes who could not be promoted to 'B' class; or on getting the AIR broadcasts the 'C' class artistes have deteriorated and hence this step?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Most of these 'C' class artistes have been on the rolls for a very long time; but their being there does not mean that all of them were getting programmes. A large number of them did not get programmes or got them only casually. Public interest in music and cultural things has increased and they do exact higher standards from artistes and it is due to public complaints that we have had to take this measure.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: How are artistes classified and how are they promoted or demoted?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Artistes are classified as 'A', 'B' and 'C' through audition tests by the Audition Committee. There are audition tests and so on, and if one is a 'C' class artiste and if he wants promotion, he can again appear before the Audition Committee and if the Audition Committee is satisfied, it can promote him to 'B' class and then to 'A' class and so on.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Of these 2,900 odd artistes whose services were available to the AIR, how many were actually getting programmes?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: I do not have that information at present. I would require notice.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: If any of these artistes feels that injustice has been done to him, is there any process of appeal open to him in order to ask for reclassification?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Every artiste has the right to appeal and every appeal, notwithstanding the fact that there are thousands of them, is heard carefully.

SHRI RAGHAVENDRARAO: What is the number of artistes in each of these classes, 'A', 'B' and 'C'?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: I have not got the information about 'C' class.

SHRI RAGHAVENDRARAO: What is the number for 'C' class?

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: The number for 'C' class is given in the Statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is widespread discontent among artists of all description about the management and administration of the All India Radio at Calcutta?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a large question: That there is widespread discontent about the work of the All India Radio Station at Calcutta among all categories of artists 'A', 'B' and 'C'.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Artists are classified as 'A', 'B' and 'C' through Foreign Exchange Requirement of the Private Sector for Industrial Development during the Second Plan Period.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total foreign exchange requirement of the private sector for industrial development in the Second Plan period;

(b) how much of it has so far been made available;

(c) what is the industry-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

MR. B. V. KESKAR: Effect on Handloom Industry of Reduction in Excise Duty on Medium Cloth and Abolition of Sales Tax on Mill Cloth.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to

state whether it is a fact that with the reduction in excise duty on medium cloth and abolition of sales tax on mill cloth, the handloom industry is facing a crisis?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

It is not possible as yet to assess the effect of the reduction in excise duty on medium cloth on the handloom industry. The abolition of the sales tax has had no effect on the handloom industry as it has been replaced by the additional excise duty on mill cloth. In view however of representations received regarding accumulations of handloom stocks in various States Government decided to give a special rebate of 6% in addition to the existing rebate of 6% for a period of 2 months with effect from 11th April, 1958 to clear the accumulated stocks. This special rebate is applicable to all retail sales of handloom cloth by weavers' co-operative societies and State-owned depots and to all wholesale sales by weavers' co-operative societies. It is expected that this will clear to a considerable extent the accumulated stocks.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: What is the approximate cost of the handloom cloth stocks which have been accumulating with the co-operative societies in the depots in the States?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is about Rs. 310 lakhs or less than a month's production.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Is it a fact that some of the representatives of the handloom industry have made a statement that this huge stock cannot be cleared within two months in spite of the small reduction which has been given?