

**WORK AND ORIENTATION CENTRE**

\*251. DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 160 in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th May, 1957, and state:

(a) the number of the Work and Orientation Centres so far opened in the country for the training of educated unemployed and the places where they are located;

(b) whether the training of any educated unemployed at any of those Centres has been completed;

(c) if so, whether those trainees have been provided with employment;

(d) whether any effort has been made to organise any co-operative societies for the utilisation of their training for production or trade; and

(e) if so, the number of such societies set up in the State of Kerala and the nature of the work done by them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) Two— Kalamassery (Kerala) and Delhi. One Centre will be opened shortly at Kalyani (Calcutta).

(b) Yes.

(c) The Centres are intended to give guidance and instruction for increasing employability and capacity for self employment of trainees.

(d) Yes.

(e) Three societies are to be started by about 67 trainees of the first batch for manufacturing packing cases, cardboard boxes, nuts and bolts etc.

DR. P. J. THOMAS: Is the hon. Minister aware that three co-operative societies established in Kalamassery (Kerala) under the auspices of the Bharat Sewak Samaj have not yet started functioning although the work had started long ago and that the young men are disappointed?

SHRI ABID ALI: I will communicate this to the State Governments concerned.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether the State Governments have submitted any detailed scheme regarding these orientation centres and asked for financial help from the Centre, and if so, what steps have been taken with regard to this matter?

SHRI ABID ALI: As I have stated earlier, this will be communicated to the State Governments concerned. In accordance with the information available here, trainees have been selected, Rs., 50,000 have been placed at the disposal of the co-operative societies and still there is something to be done by the State Governments. This will be communicated to them.

**UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS**

\*252. DR. P. J. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been invited to participate in the Universal Exhibition to be held in Brussels this year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to participate in the exhibition;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether India had participated in similar exhibitions held in other European countries before, and whether such participation has been beneficial to the Indian industry and trade?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It was felt that the likely advantages would not be commensurate with the foreign exchange expenditure involved.

(d) There have been no exhibitions of similar type in recent year.