

the preliminary stage as I said in this hon. House the other day, and after a survey has been taken we would be in a position to say how many can be settled there. The area is very large, about 80,000 square miles. There are hardly any roads or communications and even the nearest railway station is about 100 miles away.

TRADE CENTRE AT CAIRO

*329. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the function of the Trade Centre at Cairo; and

(b) whether this centre will serve as a trade channel in West Asia?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) The main functions of Trade Centre at Cairo are to give visual publicity to India's export products, to stimulate consumer interest and to give trade information to prospective Egyptian importers.

(b) To the extent traders in West Asia use the facilities available at our Trade Centre at Cairo, it will help to promote trade with that region as a whole.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether that trade centre has been opened with a view to exploring the possibility of further exports to the whole of West Asia?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it for the whole of West Asia or is it only for Egypt? That is what he asks:

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: It is meant specially for Egypt but as traders from many adjoining countries like Saudi Arabia, Lebanon Jordan, Sudan etc. visit Cairo, it will help in promoting trade with those countries also.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether by opening this Trade Centre at Cairo, any agreement has been reached with that Government and if so what are the terms of that agreement?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Agreement with whom?

SHRI S. C. DEB: With Egypt.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There is no specific agreement for the purpose. It is a sort of permanent exhibition and the actual contracts will be entered into by importers in the countries concerned and the exporters in this country.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether expansion of the tea market in West Asia is also under contemplation?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Tea is one of the commodities which will be handled in that trade centre.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the volume of trade that has been transacted through this centre at Cairo?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The trade centre has been opened recently; just a few months ago. It is difficult to give exact figures. Moreover the trade centre itself will not transact a business. It has been organised by the Government to display the goods manufactured in India and available for export. The importers in those countries will enter into direct negotiations with the exporters in this country.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Are there any other agencies or branches in other Asiatic countries?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There are many show-rooms and trade centres in other countries. There is a proposal also to set up a Warehouse-cum-demonstration centre at Singapore.