

श्री जे० एस० एस० हाथी : एसा तो नहीं है, बरूरत बढ़ती जाती है और अभी तो बहुत सी एप्लीकेशंस हैं ।

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: May I know, Sir, whether any proposal was submitted for a change-over from D. C. Supply to A. C. supply to the consumers?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There was a proposal.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: May I know when it is going to be implemented fully?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is being considered.

STATUTORY POWERS OF THE ALL-INDIA KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD

*841. PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to confer statutory powers on the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board;

(b) if so, when the necessary draft Bill for conferring such powers will be introduced in Parliament; and

(c) whether any resolution, in this connection, has been placed by the Board before the Government; and if so, what are its contents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. A Bill to this effect has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir. Two resolutions were passed by the Board. Copies of these resolutions are laid on the Table of the House.

RESOLUTIONS

I. Resolution adopted by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board on the 20th December 1953.

The Board records its sense of gratitude to Shri T. T. Krishnamachari for his attendance at the meeting of the Board and the full and clear exposition he gave of the proposal for the establishment of a statutory commission.

2. While appreciating the reasons which led Government to propose the creation of small-sized Commission as distinct from the Board, which would be retained to serve only as an advisory body, the Board would reiterate the view expressed by it at the last meeting that the transformation of the entire Board into a statutory body would be the most suitable course of action to be adopted in order to enable the Board to overcome the procedural and financial difficulties it had experienced so far. The Board hoped that it would still be possible for the Minister for Commerce and Industry to revise the draft legislation and to get the same enacted at the next session of Parliament.

3. In case, however, Government took the definite view that Parliament could not be persuaded to vest authority in a large-sized statutory body, the Board would urge as an alternative proposal that the draft legislation might be recast so as to invest the Board's Executive Committee with statutory powers. Consequential changes in the draft legislation might be effected to enable this intention to be carried out.

4. The member-secretary and Shri R. Srinivasan be empowered to discuss, if necessary, the details of the proposed legislation with the Commerce and Industry and Law Ministries of the Government of India.

II. Resolution adopted by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board on 3rd/4th August 1954.

The Board has considered the draft Bill for establishing the All-India

Khadi and Village Industries Commission. During the previous discussions on this subject, the Board had taken the view that there was no need for constituting a small-sized Commission as distinct from the Board itself. In fact, the Board believed that from the administrative point of view, it would be a convenient arrangement to have authority vested in the Board as now constituted. The Board sees no reason, still, to alter this view. However, if the Central Government are of opinion that it would not be possible for them to induce Parliament to confer statutory authority except on a small-sized commission consisting of experts or specialists, the Board accepts the arrangements proposed in the draft Bill on the strength of the convention agreed to by the Minister for Commerce and Industry that, ordinarily, the Central Government would constitute the Commission only out of members of the Board whose names are proposed for the purpose by the Board. The Board trusts that the formation of the Commission will considerably facilitate the implementation of programme of development of Khadi and Village Industries with increased intensity and vigour.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, did the Board recommend that statutory powers should be conferred on all the members of the Board or only a part?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The latest resolution and views are that the number of Members of the Commission will be limited and there should be a convention that the recommendation of the Board regarding the personnel should be accepted by Government.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Did the Board also recommend that their financial powers should not be limited to the three pice cess, but exceed that?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: That is not one of the recommendations.

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COTTAGE INDUSTRY PRODUCTS PURCHASED FOR GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

*842. PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of cottage industry products other than Khadi purchased for Government requirements during the year 1954-55; and

(b) whether these purchases including that of Khadi were made by inviting tenders or placing orders with the All-India Khadi Board?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Rs. 72.60 lakhs.

(b) All purchases of hand-spun and hand-woven khadi are effected through the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board, Bombay, without calling for tenders. Purchases of other items are made by inviting tenders.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: May I know, Sir, how much mill-made paper was purchased and how much hand-made paper was purchased by the Government of India during 1954-55?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I require notice, because this involves figure-work.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Sir, the report issued by his own Ministry says that they purchased mill-made paper worth three crores of rupees and more. Would the hon. Minister kindly tell me how much hand-made paper was purchased? It is in your report.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The first part is giving information rather than expecting it from me. And if the same report is examined, there may be figures about the purchase of hand-made paper. But if he wants it to be repeated again, I would expect him to give notice.