

cinema films" are, however, one of the items for which applications for import licences have not been invited by Pakistan during the current shipping period. This restriction applies uniformly to all countries including India.

MEETINGS HELD BY HANDICRAFTS BOARD

*452. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many meetings of the Handicrafts Board have been held since its establishment and where they were held;

(b) what expenditure was incurred on travelling allowances and daily allowances for each meeting; and

(c) what decisions were taken at these meetings?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) Two—One at New Delhi and the other at Trivandrum.

(b) Rs. 1,661-10-0 for the first meeting; and for the second meeting Rs. 5,309-10-0 for members, and Rs. 2,242-8-0 for special invitees.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Council.

STATEMENT

Important recommendations made by the All-India Handicrafts Board:

1. The Board should concentrate on the development of toys, earthenware and matings.

2. All Heads of States should be requested to get the Government Houses and State Buildings fitted with products of Handicrafts so as to emphasise the use of Handicrafts by the people

3. Necessary provision should be made in the Budget for printing of catalogue of handicrafts products.

4. The publication of a Directory on Cottage Industries should be expedited.

5. A Central Marketing Organisation should be set up to facilitate and develop the marketing of Cottage Industries products both in India and abroad. The details of the scheme should be worked out by the Executive Committee of the Board and forwarded to Government.

6. Necessary administrative machinery should be set up for implementing the recommendations of the Board and the Executive Committee should work out the details in this regard.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Does this expenditure include travelling expenditure incurred by Government officers?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: No, Sir. The travelling expenditure on Government officers is debited to the appropriate Ministries.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What Government officers attended these meetings, Sir?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI-Sir, as a matter of fact, I do not remember the exact number. But I believe at least two officers attended the meeting, and I do not remember who were the others.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, what officers attended the Trivandrum meeting especially and what was their travelling expenditure?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: This is exactly what I said; as far as the meeting in Delhi is concerned, I think most of my officers were there and no travelling expenses were incurred—not even any entertaining expenses—except perhaps the cost of petrol to go down to the Handicrafts Board. So far as the Trivandrum meeting is concerned, as I said, it is merely a matter of memory. I do not know who were the subordinates who attended it.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is it a fact that the Trivandrum meeting cost something like Rs. 21,000 including the

travelling expenditure of the Government officers?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It would not be correct, Sir, to say so. The total is about Rs. 7,700 and it is not great in my opinion.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Why are these meetings held in different parts of the country?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That is precisely my trouble, Sir. Every province in India wants these meetings to be held at their headquarters. If the Chair would permit me, I will tell you that other committees like the Export Advisory Council and Import Advisory Council have also protested that the meetings were always held in Delhi. Because the House is sitting, I am unable to get away from it. And, Sir, the utility of holding meetings in different parts of the country is recognised; the cost element that comes out oftentimes does not balance the utility that is gained by holding the meetings in different parts of the country. I cannot hold meetings in these places merely because of the pressure of work on Government officers and on the Ministers.

SHRI D., NARAYAN: What are the agencies through which the Handicrafts Board is working?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The Handicrafts Board is itself the agency, but it does employ any agency that is available for the purpose and various other organisations that are interested in handicrafts.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Who were the special invitees to this Committee?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Shri M. K. Menon, Shri C. T. Phillips, Shri Ayas Pir Bhoy, Shri L. C. Jain and Mrs. Bery.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know who these people are?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Experts in handicrafts.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: How many did represent Travancore-Cochin State at this Conference?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I have no information.

SHRI K. B. LALL: In how many provinces have these meetings been held?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, in the province of Delhi and in Travancore-Cochin.

SHRI K. B. LALL: Do the Government propose to hold such meetings in other provinces?

MR. CHAIRMAN: And then raise questions about the cost!

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Yes, Sir.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Has this Committee drawn any programme for holding exhibitions in foreign countries?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The Ministry has a programme and in every case where the Ministry has a programme, the information is communicated to the Handicrafts Board and their association sought.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know if they have got a separate programme?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Well, I do not think the Government is in a position to think compartment-ally, but we do feel that our resources are so inadequate that we have got to rope in every conceivable organisation into our scheme. ■

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Who were the members who attended this meeting from Travancore-Cochin? What handicrafts did they represent?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, the fact really is that in Trivandrum an exhibition of cottage industries and handicrafts was held as the Travancore Government was very keen

that this Board should have its meeting at Trivandrum and I believe quite a number of people must have attended from Travancore-Cochin. This question has to be addressed to the proper quarters and I am afraid, I have no information.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Sir, I want to know which handicrafts did they represent?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I have got only the names of invitees to whom the travelling expenses have been paid. I do not know if there was anybody else who has not been paid any allowances. Maybe, a number of people did attend. I think the Government was associated with the whole scheme.

PANDIT S. DUBE: Was there any meeting in Nagpur?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only two meetings have been held—one in Delhi and the other in Trivandrum—and none at Nagpur.

PANDIT S. DUBE: May I know whether any meeting will be held at Nagpur?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

**AMOUNT PAID TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ENGINEERING COMPANY OF U. S. A.**

*453. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the total amount so far paid to the International Engineering Company of the United States of America for tendering advice to the Central Water and Power Commission in connection with the Hirakud Dam Project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): The total amount paid to the International Engineering Company of the U.S.A., for preparation of designs for the Hirakud Dam Project is Rs. 4,44,500.

SHRI B. R. DUBE: Has this expenditure been audited?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Am I to understand that the Central Water and Power Commission only sought advice from the International Engineering Company as regards the designs of the Project?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, in the beginning When the Project was undertaken, the C.D.O. (Central Designs Office) was not properly organised and it was in 1949-50 that we had sufficient men and therefore this had to be entrusted to this company.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: What I intend asking is whether it is only for the preparation of designs that the Central Water and Power Commission sought advice from the International Engineering Company, or for any other matter connected therewith. That is the question.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I could not follow it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said here: "for preparation of designs for the Project." Is it only for preparing designs or Is It for tendering advice on other aspects also?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not for other aspects, for preparation of designs only.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that Government entered into a contract with this firm in 1948 for the preparation of designs on payment of Rs. 4 or Rs. 7 lakhs—merely for designs?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: With this firm? I do not think it is so?

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that the design submitted by this firm in 1948 was found unsuitable?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not that they were found unsuitable, but as we got further data, some designs had to be changed.