

the Plan is being implemented but

I
this Committee will have sufficient power to look into the fact that the Plan is being implemented.

PROF. G. BANGA : Are we to understand, Sir, that there is going to be a committee apart from the Planning Commission ? We had understood that the Planning Commission itself would make its special task to see to it that this Plan is executed by the States as well as the Union Government.

SHRI JAWAFAR LAL NEFRU : The Planning Commission themselves are in charge of this work. They may appoint committees or sub-committees to help them.

PROF. G. P. AKGA : Are any steps being taken or any consideration being given to the need for having a permanent staff—Secretariat at the highest level as well as assistants and other people for the Planning Commission so that these people, who will be employed by the Planning Commission, would know that they have security of tenure and they would be able to specialise themselves in that work?

SHRI JAWAFAR LAL NEFRU : The Planning Commission employs a number of people who are the permanent employees of Government. Some others will probably be employed for a period. I could not answer the hon. Member straightaway how many are of that variety. But there is no doubt that they will have to continue and they should have that feeling that they are going to continue.

PROF. G. RAKGA: Thank you.

PRODUCTION OF LENSES

*151. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate annual requirement of spectacles and frames in the country: AOC
S. D.

(b) the average annual production of lenses in the country ;

(c) how many factories are producing such lenses and the production of each such factory per year ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps to make the country self-sufficient in the production of lenses and frames?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) About one million pieces each.

(F) and (c). Since there are a number of small manufacturers on a cottage scale it is not possible to give the information required.

(d) The existing capacity for the manufacture of spectacles and of lenses from imported blanks is understood to be adequate to meet the internal demand. A scheme for the establishment of a Government plant for the production of optical glass for use in the manufacture of lenses is under consideration.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : May I know, Sir, firstly, if there is any special licence or registration necessary to start manufacturing lenses in this country and secondly, is there any law for standardising the quality of glasses and lenses ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Sir, so far as I can say from the information available, I do not think it is incumbent on every one of these factories to register itself, and, secondly, for standardisation, we have not made it compulsory. But there is the Indian Standards Institution and whoever desires to go there, can do so. And it is in their own interests that many of them go there. I could not say offhand as to what has happened in the case of this particular industry.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Since it is so optional, is the Government aware that large-scale cheating is going on because of competition and in the absence of any specific law in this matter ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Some cheating must be going on I am not sure, but I would like to find it..

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Is it a fact, Sir, that coloured window glasses resembling Crooks are converted and sold as real—coloured window glasses are imported under the name of Crooks and passed off in the market as real ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : It is likely that crooks must be passing off those glasses as real.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Is the import of spectacle glasses accompanied by a graph showing degree of refraction of glasses and their properties for the absorption of heat rays and violet rays ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should like to find that out whether every import is accompanied by such a thing.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA : Will the hon. Minister let us know whether there is any price control for these glasses manufactured in India, because the prices at present are fantastically high and poor people cannot afford it ? Will the Government take steps to regularise the prices of these lenses manufactured in India ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : A large proportion of the lenses and spectacle frames available in the country are made here. As I said earlier, we are giving permits for importing blanks, that is to say, unprocessed glass. What they do is to bring the glass and process it here. The proportion of imported lenses and imported spectacle frames is very small as compared with Indian made ones.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : May I know what steps Government propose to take to make the country self-sufficient in this respect and whether Government intend to set up a factory of their own or any collaborating factory.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The idea is to start production of optical lenses at the National Instrument Factory at Calcutta. It is proposed to set

up manufacture of optical glass in India with the technical assistance of Messrs. Chance Bros, of Birmingham. The firm, however, have expressed doubts on the feasibility of establishing production of optical glass in India with particular reference to the existence of raw materials.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : The firm has expressed doubts but still the Government think that there is every possibility of establishing this industry here.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The firm has expressed doubts only with particular reference to the existence of raw materials and the economics of the scheme and suggested that a preliminary survey of the position by an expert was essential. Lenses are precision instruments and unless they are very good, they won't be useful. Our materials do not come up to that standard. We are examining that question further. All things being favourable, we *want* to go into production.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Cannot this industry of manufacture of frames be put on a cottage industry basis ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Frame^s have to be manufactured by organisations necessarily on a small scale. I have got here the names of eight firms who manufacture frames.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : My question was whether it could not be encouraged as a cottage industry.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I hope my hon. friend will appreciate that the lenses, to be useful, have got to be absolutely precise. Even, if they are a little wanting in precision, they will tease the wearer. So I think this is not an industry which can be encouraged as a cottage industry.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : What are those eight firms ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The names of the eight concerns which make plastic spectacle frames are :

1. Messrs. Art Bangle Ltd., Bombay.