

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.