

has been set up and this organisation is demanding representation. When they made the representation in July this year, that body was not registered but having undertaken all these steps, naturally it will be entitled to have a representative.

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण: क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इन जोनल कशटीज या यूजर्स कमेटीज के अन्दर आप चैम्बर आफ कामर्स और बिजनेस कन्सुल्टेन्टी के रेप्रेजेन्टेटिव्स हस सात सात लेते हैं और अगर लिये हैं तो क्या कारण है कि फेडरेशन आफ पैसेन्जर्स एसोसियेशन्स का एक ही प्रतिनिधि लिया है हर यूजर्स कमेटी पर ?

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : एक नहीं । कहीं 2 और 3 भी लिये गये हैं और जहाँ कहीं अगर कोई सदस्य समझे कि उचित प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं है तो उसको विचार जा सकता है ।

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: May we know whether registration of the association is the only criterion for recognition of an association or whether some efforts are being made by the Ministry to see that the associations are really representative in character of the people at large?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually, Madam, the two all-India associations have been set up one in Bombay and the other at Poona and I do not know whether they are having their representatives in all the States and on all the Railways. We shall have to be guided by some norm because in these committees we give representation to passenger associations and many of them are centralised in one particular zone and are having more than one representative in each one of the committees, sometimes three also. This question of registration is supposed to be a very good norm. Unless and until they get themselves registered, how can representation be given?

*307. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1797 infra.]

VISIT OF INDIAN TRADE TEAM TO U.S.S.R.

SHRIMATI LALITHA
(RAJAGOPALAN)

SHRIMATI TARA RAM CHANDRA
SATHE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade team led by Shri D. S. Joshi Secretary, in the Ministry of Commerce left for Soviet Union as scheduled to discuss with the Russian authorities, the question of the movement of goods between the two countries during the period from 1966—70; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Leader of the Indian Trade Delegation, Shri D. S. Joshi held fruitful discussions in Moscow with the Soviet Government officials for expansion of volume of trade which stood at Rs. 75 crores each way in 1964 to Rs. 150 crores each way by 1970. Later, the Indian Trade Delegation exchanged lists with the Soviet Trade Delegation of commodities to be exported from India to the U.S.S.R. and imported therefrom during 1966-70 keeping the above objective in view. These lists are now under study by both the Governments and final round of discussion will be held in New Delhi during this month when a high powered Soviet Delegation will visit India for the purpose.

Possibilities have also been explored by the Indian Trade Delegation to set up industries in India to produce certain items to meet specific requirements of the Soviet markets.

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Lalitha (Rajagopalan).

The Agreement will be finally signed by the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade Mr. Patolichev who will arrive in India early next month at our invitation.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): May I know from the hon. Minister whether this discussion has led to any further fresh agreement for the export of items other than those that We have been exporting to Russia? If so, what are they?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Now, the emphasis hereafter will be not on the traditional items but on new items like engineering goods, etc. That is the purpose with which this has been done. Unless we go in for engineering and non-traditional items we cannot expand trade.

IMPORT OF TABLE TENNIS BALLS

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE:

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN):

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned importing Halex and Villa table tennis balls from other countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give permits to the Montana Company to import raw-material for the production of these balls; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Montana table tennis balls are not available in the open market at fair price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) The import of table tennis balls of any brand is totally banned.

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Tara Rama Chandra Sathe.

(b) Yes, Madam, subject to availability of foreign exchange, the Ministry of Industry may allot foreign exchange to them on A.U. basis.

(c) No complaint to this effect has been brought to the notice of the Government. But if there is any, I may request the Hon'ble Member to inform the Ministry of Industry who take suitable steps in all such cases.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: Madam, is it a fact that the Government of India had banned the import of Halex and Villa table tennis balls and gave an import licence to the Montana Company? This Montana Company has raised the price from thirty paise to Rs. 1/50 each. May I know whether the Government had laid down any condition when the import licence was given to this company?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The import licence relates only to the import of materials for which we have given, for the period April 1962 to March 1963, a licence worth nearly twenty-three thousand rupees. For 1963-64 the value of the licence was eighteen thousand rupees and for 1964-65 the value was sixteen thousand rupees. The installed capacity of the Montana Company is for the production of 1.5 million balls but the production is only of the order of 1.25 million balls. We have no idea as regards the price.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: He did not reply to the question whether any condition was laid down. The second question I want to ask is this. Is it a fact that the Government authorised some persons to investigate about the rise in the price of Montana balls, and as the news leaked out before the investigators reached Bombay, this