

REGISTRATION FOR MANUFACTURER-EXPORTER/MERCHANT-EXPORTER

f SHRI SUNDAR MANI ,, J PATEL:

j SHRI LOKANATH [MISRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the business firms are registered as Merchant-Exporters and Manufacturer-Exporters by the Export Promotion Council;

(b) under what conditions and circumstances a Merchant-exporter can be converted into a Manufacturer-exporter; and

(c) the number of applications received for registration as Merchant-Exporters during the year by the Export Promotion Council for being converted into Manufacturer-Exporters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) All exporters with past performance, good record and experience are eligible for registration. Exporters who are registered as manufacturers with the Directorate General of Technical Development, or the Director of Industries of the State concerned or the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries are normally considered as Manufacturer-exporters, and others are considered as merchant-exporters;

(b) There is no question of conversion of Merchant exporter into Manufacturer-exporter.

(c) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL OFFICER FOR FORMATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE

*456. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special officers to do the preparatory work for formation of the South Central Zone, have been appointed; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since the new Zone is not being inaugurated before October, 1966, the appointment of Special Officers now would be premature.

EXPORTS TO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

*457. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has recently reviewed India's trade with East European countries;

(b) if so, the details of the review; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of manufactured articles in East European countries?

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

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (See *below*).

(c) The following steps have taken to promote the exports of manufactured goods to East European countries:—

(i) Inclusion of such goods in the trade agreements.

(ii) Participation/display in the exhibitions/fairs held in the East European countries.

(iii) Arranging visits of business/technical experts delegations from these countries and *vice-versa*.

(iv) Stressing this point in the trade negotiations with trade delegations of these countries.

(v) Opening of offices of State Trading Corporations in East European countries to step up sales activity.

(vi) Opening of permanent display counter in these countries.