

sumably provide the nucleus around which the network will eventually be built

The problem is not merely one of extending the practice of poultry farming as a supplement to farm incomes but also its organisation on sound and scientific lines to improve the quality of meat and eggs as well as egg production. The fact that annual per capita production of eggs is probably around 50 in this country whereas it is around 120 for the whole world shows the extent of improvement that is possible. The size of the eggs is also on the low side in this country and needs to be increased. It is good to see that active consideration is being given to this question, the importance of which need hardly be stressed at this stage in our development.

ISI Bombay Branch

To give a good start to the first branch of the Indian Standards Institution recently opened in Bombay, the Director of the Institution, Dr Lal C Raman held a press conference this week. To questions which centred on the role of small-scale industries in the Second Five-Year Plan, asked with a view to eliciting information on the part that stand-

ardisation could play in their resuscitation, Dr Varman had not much to say by way of answer. As a matter of fact, currently the Institution has on the anvil about a hundred draft standards in respect of the handloom industry alone. A successful standard has been evolved with regard to the manufacture of locks in Aligarh. The magnitude of the problem of standardisation with regard to small scale industries is evident.

Dr Varman was at pains to inform the Press that the problem faced by the Institution was not that standards must be uniformly adopted all over the country but rather that standards helped the manufacturer, the raw material buyer as well the consumer in determining the standard of quality that was required. A keen problem faced by the Institution is in respect of finding representation for ordinary consumer interests on its various technical committees which go into the question of formulating standards. So far as it is possible to find consumers among industries for one another's products, the problem is easily solved by taking as a consumer-representative in regard to a product a manufacturer's representative who serves in that capacity in another committee. Gov-

ernment departments as consumers can easily be located, however. But Dr Varman held up for emulation the practice in some advanced countries, particularly in the United States, where private consumers' organisations go into the study of products and even publish the results of such investigation in their own journals, giving full details including even the manufacturer's name. So far as the ISI is concerned, it merely handles the suggestions made for formulating standards. Suggestions for standards can be made by any interests. The ISI does not have its own laboratories or other equipment, but makes use of such organisations as do exist, governmental and other.

An Important stage has now been reached by the ISI with the issue of the first licence for certification of mark to an aluminium concern. This mark ensures that the product concerned conforms to the standard prescribed by the ISI. This is not to be mixed up with trade marks. The ISI's problem in seeing that this licence is not misused is great, but Dr Varman feels confident that the evolution of the methods of inspection will succeed in keeping the manufacturer keen enough to maintain the standard.

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