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'India lags behind in quality standardization'

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CALCUTTA, Jan. 29. — While there are 1,20,000 companies worldwide who has got the ISO 9000 certificate for quality standards, in India only about 1,300 firms got the certificate during 1990-95. Giving this information, Dr Madhav Mehra, chairman of Worldwide Quality Management Network Ltd, London, told *The Statesman* here today this showed that India's share is a little above one per cent in the world total.

This was not at all encouraging, Dr Mehra — who is also president of the Institute of Directors — said, considering the fact that India had around 20 per cent of the world population.

He regreted that the liberalization policy of the Government without adequate quality upgradation moves would only help foreign companies to flood the Indian market with quality products, jeopardizing the prospects of export growth through higher domestic production of better goods. As a matter of fact, liberalization in India had only smoothened the movement of goods and services.

Only ISO-9000 certification would not do, Dr Mehra said, adding, unless there was a

proper authority to monitor implementation of the quality standards, nothing much could be achieved in the long-run.

Most countries of the world today had national accreditation bodies to carry out such monitoring, but in India the proposal for setting up a National Quality Council was still awaiting the Cabinet's approval.

He said there were too many Ministries to take care of business and finance in this country and so there was yet to be a unanimous decision on which one should be given the charge of quality management.

To increase quality consciousness in the country, the Sixth World Congress on Total Quality would be held in Delhi preceded and followed by one-day workshops in Calcutta, Bangalore, Bombay and Delhi, Dr Mehra said.

The Congress would bring a galaxy of renowned quality gurus of the world and the keynote address would be delivered by Sir Colin Marshal, chairman of British Airways. The Calcutta workshop would be addressed by Mr Genechi Taguchi, vice-president, Ohen Associates, USA, among others.

J Samal