

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Sir, my question was whether Mr. Charles Gordon met Mr. Jhunjhunwala a few months back and also met Mr. Sanjay Gandhi and he was able to displace Indian Tubes. The hon. Minister has not been able to find out a link between these two. At least, would he make an enquiry and find out whether such an effort was made?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, foreigners coming to this country is not the business of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and whom they meet and whom they do not meet, we cannot transform it chemically into something so that relations are chemically managed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, all that I would like to know is, since much passes through the pipelines these days, whether Mr. Charles Gordon did come to this country during the emergency and whether the Government is aware of the fact that he was negotiating with a gentleman called Mr. Jhunjhunwala. News is afloat in some quarters and I would like to get it verified. That is why I am asking this question.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Normally, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is a very well informed person and it is not within my competence to rebut what he says. But, I am not owning the information because I have no information on the point.

• **"Buy Indian" Drive by the Railways**

*51. **SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL**

URF PIARE LALL TALIB:

SHRI JAGAN NATH

BHARDWAJ:†

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM

KHAN:

Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the "Buy Indian" drive by the Railways

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagan Nath Bhardwaj.

has had an encouraging response from indigenous manufacturers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the drive has resulted in reducing considerably the import bill in respect of a large number of items purchased by the Railways; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated annual saving of foreign exchange due to import substitution?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Indigenisation drive on Indian Railways was started in August 1975. As a result of this drive estimated annual saving of foreign exchange due to import substitution achieved upto December, 1976 has been Rs. 7.4 crores.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Sir, in view of the good results obtained as a result of the efforts for import substitution, would the hon. Minister assure this House that this policy of import substitution will be continued and will be given a vigorous impetus in future?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, it has been the policy of our Government to continue some of the good traditions of the old Government. And, as far as this policy is concerned, not only will we pursue that policy, but we will try to make that policy more dynamic. In this connection, I would like the House to remember that before independence, for most of the equipment, we had to rely on imports from abroad. In 1951 this policy changed not only in relation to the rolling stocks but even for the modernised system of equipment that was required and as a result of that the House will be happy to know that from 1951-52 till 1975-76 dependence on imports from foreign countries came down from 30 per cent to 8.18 per cent. Sir, we will vigorously continue the same policy.

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया : 'बाई इंडियन'

डाइव में रेलवे की कौन-कौन सी एजेंसीस काम कर रही है तथा उनके काम करने की

पद्धति और कार्यक्रम क्या है और देश के लघु उद्योग को वह किस तरह से प्रोत्साहन दे रही है यह जानकारी देने की क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपा करेंगे ?

प्रो० मधु दण्डवते : आपने शायद यह पढ़ा होगा कि बजट के बाद हम लोगों ने एलान किया है कि इस देश में ज्यादातर फारेन एक्सचेंज का रिजर्व हम कर सकें इस के लिए हम लोगों की कोशिश यह होगी कि आज तक जिन एजेंसीस के जरिए रेलवेज का इक्विपमेंट हम खरीदते थे उन को तो कांट्रैक्ट दिए जायेंगे लेकिन अगर स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री के जरिए कोई हमारे इक्विपमेंट बनाने की कोशिश करता है तो हम लोगों की जनरल पालिसी यह रहेगी क्योंकि हम गांधियन फ्रेम वर्क में यह पालिसी आगे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं कि अगर स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री से कोई आर्डर आयेगा तो हम उस को प्रेफरेंस देंगे। यह बात मैं स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूँ।

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRA-BARTI: Will the hon. Minister throw some light on the question of purchase of wheel axles from the Durgapur Steel Plant? I understand that the Railways are not buying any wheel axles from the Wheel Axles Plant of DSP and that plant is closed. So, I would like to know whether that policy would be changed and whether instead of importing from abroad, the orders would be placed on the D.S.P. or not.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, during the Railway Budget discussion, this point was raised by the hon. Member. Though he was not there in the House. I had made it clear that as far as wheels and axles are concerned, we are utilizing the full capacity that is available and that this would be the general policy of the Government.

Railway strike in May, 1974

***52. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:†**

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanat Kumar Raha.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to take back all the Railway employees who were dismissed or removed from service for participation in the railway strike which took place in May, 1974;

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken in this direction;

(c) whether new appointments were made to fill up the vacancies caused by the removal/dismissal of some employees; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and in what manner Government propose to absorb the excess staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) and (b) Instructions have been issued that all railway employees, who were dismissed or removed from service in the context of May 1974 strike on Railways and have not so far been put back to duty, should be reinstated forthwith. Railways are taking action to implement these instructions.

(c) Yes.

(d) The dismissed/removed, employees will be mostly absorbed against available vacancies. Where absolutely inescapable, additional posts will be created so that no one is rendered surplus because of the reinstatement. Such additional posts will be set off against future vacancies.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of the victims of the strike who have not yet been taken back in service. Secondly, I would also like to know the number of employees who have gone to the court for redressal of their grievances. This should be considered in view of the fact that Government is looking into the question of the service conditions of the re-