

## RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the nth August, 1976|the

26th Sravana, 1898 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

### Obituary Reference

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Konda Narayanappa, a former Member of this House.

Born at Konkal, Shri Narayanappa was educated at Narayanpeth. A great social worker and a linguist. Shri Narayanappa was associated with several organisations and devoted himself for the village upliftment. He was an active worker of Congress and held many offices in that organisation. He was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1954. During the short span of two years, he took active part in the day-to-day proceedings of the House.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Konda Narayanappa.

I would request Members to rise in their places and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

*(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and sympathy at the passing away of Shri Konda Narayanappa.

706 RS—1.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### With-holding of grants to Export Inspection Council

•151. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:rf SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA: SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have discontinued grants to the Export Inspection Council on account of certain financial irregularities in the Council;

(b) if so, whether Government have instituted an enquiry into these irregularities; and

(c) whether enquiry has been completed, if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL; Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that a stall in the Asia 1972 Exhibition was purchased by the Council for a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs and whether it is not a fact that most of the purchases, including three Testing machines (for four lacs) Petru Dishes for Laboratories (for over five lacs) and many such articles—a long list of which can be produced—were made from a firm which was wrongly

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sat Paul Mittal.

declared as a manufacturing unit, without calling for any tenders. Is it not a fact that some purchases like air-conditioners and furniture worth thousands of rupees were made once again without inviting tenders? Is it not a fact that for one counter for one of its offices in Delhi an enormous sum of Rs. 80,000 was paid?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I could not fully get the first question. If he kindly repeats, I can answer him. So far as the second question is concerned, I find that purchases of furniture for Export Inspection Agency officers under the gold scheme for their offices in Delhi, Hardoi, Agra, Jaipur and Bombay were entrusted to a firm called Karan Singh Bros., etc. This was the allegation. Our finding on inquiry is that nothing has been purchased from Karan Singh Bros. for their Agra office. We have looked into these allegations and we found no substance in them. If he kindly repeats the first part of the question, I shall answer him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly repeat the first part of the question.

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that for the Asia 1972 Exhibition this Council purchased a Stall for a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs and after the expiry of this Exhibition, the same was sold for a paltry sum of Rs. 2,500. Is it not a fact and does it not look like a very big scandal? I would also like to know whether our hon. Minister, who is known for his integrity and dash against corruption, will investigate the matter and hand it over to the C.B.I. for a thorough investigation.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, for the Asian Fair which took place, the allegation was that the pavillion was defectively designed to suit a particular party. We looked into this matter and we found that there was no substance and those who

brought the allegation were themselves on the Committee and, what is more important, the allegation was found to be incorrect.

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: Is it also not a fact that the promotions and the appointments made therein were without any regard to the rules and regulations and were only made at the whims and fancies of the individual officers?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: No, Sir.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister if any letter from any hon. Member of Parliament was received in which some allegations were levelled against this Council. If so, what were the allegations levelled in that letter about the Council and if the hon. Minister has held any enquiry with regard to those allegations, what has been the result of that enquiry?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, it is a very comprehensive question. From time to time we get some anonymous, some pseudonymous allegations and sometimes we have received some signed allegations also. I would humbly submit, Sir, that so far as the financial irregularities are concerned—which is the main question—we have looked into the matter. The audited accounts of the Export Inspection Council and of the Export Inspection agencies under it, for the years 1964 to 1974, as required by law, have been placed on the Table of Rajya Sabha and of Lok Sabha. These accounts were audited by the Accountant-General, Commerce, Works and Miscellaneous and, Sir, we have found that there was no objection raised by the A. G. concerned and no irregularity was pointed out. Even for the year 1974-75, Sir, the Council's audited accounts by the concerned A. G., have been placed on the Table of the Sabha. No objection has been raised and no irregularity found.

SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA: Is the hon. Minister aware of the complaint lodged by the Joint Director, Delhi, alleging irregularities and corrupt practices prevalent in the Department?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Yes, Sir, we have received some complaints about the Jn. Additional Director, We looked into those complaints—there are so many—and with responsibility I am saying that those have been found to be incorrect. We looked into those and I would like to assure you, Sir, and through you the hon. Members that these allegations were sometimes so flimsy and so unsupported by facts and figures that it is difficult to follow but all those which could be followed up, have been followed up and I would like to submit that he is one of the very good officers who has been recognised by successive Ministers and officers in charge, as a very competent officer. Sometimes, as you know, Sir, allegations are levelled not because of the shortcomings or imperfections but for other considerations.

श्री गणेश लाल माली : सभापति महोदय, मन्त्री महोदय से जो भी सवाल किये गये सब का 'न' में जवाब उन्होंने दिया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मन्त्री जी ने ऐक्जास्टिवली इस काउंसिल की इन्क्वायरी करवाई है ? मैं यह भी अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक जो आडिट आब्जर्वेशंस होते रहे हैं उनको भी दर्ज नहीं किया गया है। प्रमोशंस होते रहे हैं, उनके अन्दर आब्जर्वेशन के जो रिमार्क्स रहे उन कागजों को उड़ाया गया है। परचेजेज होती गई, फर्नीचर गायब है, एयर कंडीशनर गायब हैं और उनको रेकार्ड में नहीं दिखाया गया। आब्जर्वेशंस होते हैं उनकी फाइलों की फाइलें गायब हैं। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जो बातें मेम्बरों के द्वारा आपके सामने रखी गई हैं, उनको सामने रखते हुए एक बार फिर से इस सारे

कौंसिल की तहेदिल से, गहराई से इन्क्वायरी करायेंगे और जो गिल्टी पाये जायेंगे उनके खिलाफ कार्रवाई करेंगे ? इसके अलावा जो लोग यहाँ की फ़ाइनेशियल इररेगुलरिटीज के कारण पैसा बना रहे हैं उनकी प्रोपर्टी की भी जाँच करने की कोशिश करेंगे ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I do not like to hide anything from this august, honourable and Powerful House. In regard to the financial irregularities which is the main question raised, I have already replied to that and I did not try to evade in the least. The accounts have already been laid on the Table of the House. I would submit with humility that administrative irregularities have been looked into, but we have found nothing wrong. I would like to repeat again that if there are some specific allegations about some impermissible promotions having been given to somebody or some unjustifiable violation of norms of service or that some records of service have been removed somewhere or erased or distorted, and if these allegations are brought to my notice I would certainly be very glad to look into them. But I would request the hon. Members that the allegations should be specific so that I can look into them.

श्री किशन लाल शर्मा : सभापति महोदय, क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि ओल्ड स्क्रीम के अन्तर्गत बगैर टेंडर लिये और बगैर मंजूरी के सामान की खरीद की गई ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I have already said that we have looked into it and we have found nothing objectionable.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Sir, in reply to the various supplementaries that have been put in regard to the allegations against some of the officers of the Export Inspection Council, the hon. Minister has stated that all these allegations were looked into, were enquired into and were found to be incorrect. Therefore, my sup-

plementary is, as per his words, should we understand that these fictitious allegations have been made against some officers of the Export Inspection Council only because they were important and efficient officers?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: That was neither the language nor the import of my answer.

श्री जदीश जोशी : मन्त्री महोदय क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि श्री मजूमदार कितने वर्षों से उसके अधिकारी हैं और 10 वर्ष पूर्व वह क्या था ? यह भी बताने की कृपा करें कि उस कौंसिल में उनके अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान उन्होंने अपने कितने रिश्तेदारों को नौकरी या तरक्की दी ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Sir, I have already stated that so far as this particular person is concerned, Shri Majumdar, he has been found to be a very competent officer. As you know, Sir, Government do not take steps according to the rule of thumb or in a mechanical manner. If somebody is found to be exceptionally efficient, sometimes, the rule of thumb or mechanical seniority-wise promotion is dispensed with. In his case, it has been found to be so. So far as some of his relations being employed in his office or in some other allied offices is concerned, the norms of appointment have been observed. When I received the allegation, I personally looked into it. There were also other people in that committee. I put a senior officer to look into the allegation. I am satisfied that they have been appointed on merit. I would like to submit that being an officer or a Minister or somebody in a high office may not be a qualification, but it cannot be a disqualification either.

### Foreign exchange earnings through export of engineering goods

•152. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT: t SHRI HIMMAT SINGH: SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-

VIYA: SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total value of export of engineering goods from India during the years 1974-75 and 1975-76;

(b) what is the total value of foreign exchange earned thereby; and

(c) what is the value of export of (i) textile and jute mill machinery (ii) heavy electrical wares (iii) electrical wires and cables (iv) wagons and (v) steel structural during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

Exports of engineering goods were of the value of Rs. 349.11 crores during 1974-75 and Rs. 400.07 crores during 1975-76 (Provisional).

The required information in regard to the value of exports of items mentioned in para (c) of the question is as under: —

	1974-75	1975-76 (Prov.)
	(Rs. in crores)	
(i) Textile & Jute Mill Machinery .	16.28	21.80
(ii) Heavy Electricals	11.99	14.50
(iii) Electric wires and cables . . .	17.25	22.43
(iv) Wagons and coaches . . .	9.92	16.47
(v) Steel structurals	11.71	16.18

fThe Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri-mati Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat.