

Loan Fund came into existence, may I know how much has been given in loan to the 5-Star, 4-Star, 3-Star, 2-Star and 1-Star Hotels?

DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI : Altogether, Rs. 5.1/2 crores have been given. I have not got information with me at present as to how much has been given to 5-Star hotels, etc. If she wants I shall collect it and place it on the Table of the House.

†IMPORT OF BOOKS

*36. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:‡

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI K. C. PANDA :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to take over the import of books with immediate effect;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how will this decision affect the present importers of books?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal for Government taking over the import of books. However, during 1973-74, a limited portion of the quota of established importers for import of

books will be diverted to the State Trading Corporation for import of technical books of specified categories for meeting the requirements of Universities and other institutions. This is not likely to have any particular adverse effect on the present importers.

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT : Government has taken over coal mines' management, even the foodgrains trade, even the 14 banks; even the highest judiciary of the nation has also been taken over. But I welcome the import of books, that is technical books dealing...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I welcome a question.

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT : The question of takeover of import of books is there. So, Sir. I welcome...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put the question please.

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT : I welcome the import of books by Government, technical, scientific, technological, agricultural books and books on pisciculture and all that. May I specifically know from the hon. Minister whether such books as are based on foreign ideology and cultural thing will also be imported for our people in preference to our own culture and ideology?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, this suggestion will definitely be borne in mind.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Does the Government contemplate bringing in technical books so that they would be available cheaply to the people and it will help the cause of education or will that hope remain only a pious hope like everything that the Government touches—coal and many other items—their prices will go up and the things that are required for the people will disappear?

† Transferred from 2nd May, 1973

‡ The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Debananda. Amat.

SHRI A C GEORGE . Our import of books on an average during the past two to three years is to the tune of Rs 8 to Rs 9 crores out of which this year we have earmarked Rs 50 lakhs for import of specified items through the State Trading Corporation. This has been done as per the advice of the Education Department and the different Universities so that we can facilitate availability of these books at a cheaper price.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT . Is the Government aware that under the proposed scheme new importers are entitled to license for bigger amounts as compared to the existing importers? Will it not be correct to increase the license quota for scientific and technical books for importers without regard for the quota licence?

SHRI A C GEORGE . Till the first of April 1973 actually the quota allocated for importers of books was to the tune of 150 per cent of their earlier performance. Now we find that none of the importers were utilising this facility. So our intention is to encourage more and more technical books.

SHRI UMASHANKAR JOSHI . Is the Government aware that our fore-fathers believed in *kalapani* and they did not leave the shores of India because all knowledge was here. Will this activity end up into channelising of the import of books through the Government and turn this country into another *kalapani* in the modern age?

SHRI A C GEORGE . In answer to an earlier supplementary I said that at present we have no intention of taking over the import of books. It is only in the context of the advice of the Education Department and the Universities that we have entered this field to facilitate the availability of books of a particular technical nature.

श्री जगदम्बर प्रसाद यादव . मै मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रकार की पुस्तकें

किन किन देशों से मगाई जाती हैं और आप किस प्रकार की पुस्तकों का आवंटन करते हैं और उनकी मांग कितनी है।

SHRI A C GEORGE . Sir, there is a long list of several categories of books which are permitted to be imported. This is a fairly long list. If the hon'ble Member is interested I am prepared to give it to him.

SHRI J P YADAV . Some of the important headings.

SHRI A C GEORGE . The important headings are agricultural science, animal husbandry, applied fine arts, applied sciences, business organisation, industrial management.

MR CHAIRMAN . That will do.

श्री जगदम्बर यादव . हमने पूछा था कि किन किन देशों से मगाई जाती हैं और जितनी आप अलॉटमेंट करते हैं उस हिसाब उन की डिमांड कितनी है।

SHRI A C GEORGE . There is no restriction regarding the source of these books. We are importing from the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany wherever the books are available.

SHRI A P JAIN . In reply to a question from an hon'ble Member whether books dealing with ideology and other things would not be allowed to be imported, the hon'ble Minister said that something will be done. So I want to know whether the Government thinking is to permit a large variety of books dealing with Communist ideology, with capitalist ideology, different types of ideologies and different types of thinking so that we may know what is happening all over the world. Is that the policy of the Government or do they want to put a lock in our head?

SHRI A C GEORGE . There is no intention of putting a lock on the thinking process or do brain-washing. Under the heading of Humanities we allow almost every ideology.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : In the importation of books hundreds and thousands of small booksellers are involved. They provide books for all classes of customers in the Universities and colleges. By taking over the import of books I do not think the STC will do any justice or any service to the nation. On the other hand, they will burn their fingers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you putting a question or giving your views ?

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : What has prompted the Government of India or the STC to take over the import of books? What was wrong with the present importers of books ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is not taking over of the import of books. It is only allocating Rs. 50 lakhs worth of licences to the STC with the specific purpose of meeting the demands made by the Education Department, the universities and the University Grants Commission.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, if we go round Connaught Circus or any place in Bombay or Calcutta, we find that there are any number of sexy and pornographic books which are obviously imported and which have a bad effect on the morals or our people. So may I know from the Minister whether he will consider prohibiting the import of sexy and pornographic books in future?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, already there is a list of journals and magazines the import of which will not be allowed against licences; it is a voluminous list. And we are keeping a close watch over these imports.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : May I know from the Minister from which country we import the largest quantities of books and to what category they belong?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : This particular information is not available with me. I will be happy to give it later.

TEA EXPORTS TO HARD CURRENCY AREAS

*153. **SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of Indian tea to hard currency areas have been on the decline during the past three years; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Exports of tea to free currency areas have been on decline during the past three years.

(b) Some of the reasons for decline in exports to free currency areas are (i) pressure of buying in Indian auctions by bilateral trade agreement countries, (ii) pressure of rising domestic demand, (iii) increasing competition from other producing countries particularly Ceylon, African countries, Argentina and Indonesia which can offer teas at comparatively cheaper prices.

SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA : Sir, may I know whether it is true that excise duty on tea is levied on a differential basis according to production zones? Is there any national basis such excise duty or it is *ad hoc* and arbitrary? What is the impact of it on the export of Indian tea?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, it is true that we are levying excise duties depending on different production zones. There are five different zones. But in the matter of exports, these excise duties are to a great extent given back as rebate, as an export incentive.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : May I know whether the Government has not set up a Tea Export Corporation about a year back and whether this Corporation has not been doing any job absolutely and has not sold a single pound of tea abroad? Why is the Government not doing anything about activating this Tea Export Corporation?