

what would be the price of the end product of the synthetic rubber as contemplated in this project, compared with the price of natural rubber, and whether we will have to pay more for synthetic rubber products than for natural rubber products.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : The first question I think I did answer earlier. The capacity which is contemplated is 20,000 tonnes per annum of stereo-specific polybutadiene synthetic rubber. This is the kind of rubber contemplated for this new project. As to the second question, it really does not arise from the main question because in the main question it was really asked whether there is such a project. Also, I will have to find out in order to give a clear answer to the hon. Member.

SHRI A. D. MANI : It arises from the main question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question,

NYLON TEXTILE FACTORY IN PUBLIC SECTOR IN ASSAM

•137. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved a proposal to set up a Nylon Textile factory in the public sector in Assam ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the stage at which the proposal stands at present and the action so far taken in pursuance thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. A Letter of Intent has been issued to the Assam Industrial Development Corporation, Shillong on 29th December, 1971 to set up a new industrial undertaking in that State to manufacture 2100 tonnes/annum of Nylon filament yarn. The letter of intent, contains, *inter alia*, the condition that the Corporation have to send within a period of 6 months from the date

—("Transferred from the 20th March.

of issue of this letter their proposals regarding foreign collaboration and import of capital goods to the Government of India for approval. These proposals are awaited.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : What is the present position of requirements and supply of raw materials in respect to *thi* nylon factory in this country ? What arrangements are contemplated for supply of raw materials to the proposed factory and what other projects are contemplated for the petro-chemical in commerce in Assam ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : The question covers a very very wide field indeed, but so far as the question which has asked for an answer is concerned, as I have pointed out in the written answer, a letter of intent has been issued, and detailed proposals for this project including the proposal for foreign collaboration are yet to come to the Government. That is why the earlier answer given was that they are being worked out, and so far as this project is concerned, all the details including the proposals regarding foreign collaboration are yet to be worked out.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : May I know how much raw material will be required ? How can you issue the letter of intent without knowing it ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I can inform the hon. Member that the idea at the moment is to allow the manufacture of 2100 tonnes per annum and raw material; for this production will be available to this factory. The capacity of 2100 tonnes is taken because on an examination it is found that this is the quantity which is sufficient to make the unit viable. After existing the raw material requirements this quantity of 2100 tonnes has been sanctioned. As for the exact quantity, I cannot give it just now.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that while granting the licence to the public sector unit at Assam it was also stated that henceforth such strategic production in the consumer sector will be undertaken by the public sector in order to get more resources for the Government. If so, may I know whether it is not a fact

that the Government has given expansion licences to the various private sector units in the country and what is the reason for it? Secondly, I want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that in the public sector and in the co-operative sector projects are being licenced, but delay takes place. In respect of new projects again the private sector gets expansion licences. May I know whether the Government will assure us that such tactics will be stopped and only the public sector or the co-operative sector will be encouraged for the manufacture of such consumer items?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : As the hon. Member says rightly, there are three *existing* units in the private sector and they have been allowed to expand to bring their capacity up to 4100 tonnes. Now, when I mentioned earlier that the capacity contemplated for the new public sector undertaking is 2100 tonnes, to begin with this is the minimum required for making the units viable economically. Even the other units were for 2100 tonnes to begin with to make them economically viable. As and when it goes on and the capacity is reached, the position as to whether this also needs expansion will be considered by the Government. I may also inform the hon. Member that it is not only in respect of this public sector undertaking, but also in respect of various other States similar positions have been taken. A capacity in the public sector of 2100 tonnes has been allowed for a total requirement of something like 23,000 tonnes. New units are proposed to be set up by the State Industrial Corporations of Gujarat, Mysore, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Orissa and Assam. So, the dominant position, after this, will be that of the public sector. Therefore, the assumption of the hon. Member that it is Government's tactics to grant expansion of the private sector and not the expansion of the public sector is not correct. Moreover, even while granting permission care is taken to see that the dominant shareholding is that of the Government, so that the control of the unit is in the hands of the Government.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : I do not know whether there is demand for nylon in this country when the majority or the

people in this country are not clad well. Further, this factory is supposed to be in the public sector. May I know how far this will relieve unemployment in this country?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I am sorry I could not hear.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many people will find employment in this particular public sector project—he asks.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I am not in a position to give it now. It really does not arise out of the question.

Re Starred Question No. 241

MR. CHAIRMAN : I may inform Members that I have admitted a Calling Attention Notice on this question for tomorrow, one aspect of it, i.e., 'go-slow tactics'. So, you may bear that in mind while putting questions.

एअर इंडिया तथा इंडियन एअर
लाइन्स को हुआ घाटा

241. श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :
श्री दत्तो पन्त ठेगड़ी :
श्री लाल अडवाणी :
श्री ना० कृ० शेटवलकर :
श्री प्रेम मोहर :
डा० भाई महावीर :
श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :
श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :
श्री के० एल० एन० प्रसाद :

क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह
बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एअर इंडिया
और इंडियन एअर लाइन्स को पिछले वर्ष के
दौरान लगभग 2 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा
हुआ है ;

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur.