

SHRI P. C. SETHI: This prototype was developed here. I have not the details about the contents.

श्री राजभारत : अभी मंत्री जी जवाब दे रहे हैं, इसी की। आप दूसरे को सवाल करने के लिए बुलाने जा रहे हैं। अभी इन्होंने जवाब खत्म नहीं किया है।

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, आप अपना जवाब पूरा करें।

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as the imported content of this particular engine is concerned, I do not have the details but I will find out whether we are in a position to give it. Regarding the other question, the details of the accident are given in the main statement. I have pointed out that the engine has actually taken 200 flights, and there were 2,000 hours of bed test as far as the engine tests are concerned.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: There was the earlier crash of a similar aircraft in Jamnagar. It flew low in the midst of the city due to which considerable damage to property was done and many lives were lost.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: How does it arise here?

DR. B. N. ANTANI: Has he taken any action?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now that question does not arise. Next question.

#### TEA AUCTION CENTRES AT GAUHATI AND DELHI

\*96. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR  
MUKHERJEE;  
SHRI KALYAN ROY:†  
SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM;  
SHRI NIREN GHOSH;  
DR. DEBIPRASAD CHAT-  
TOPADHYAYA:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two new auction centres for tea are proposed to be opened at Gauhati and Delhi;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) how far these two new centres would adversely affect the auction centre at Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Perhaps you know, Sir, that a good deal of agitation is going on among the employees of the tea auction house in Calcutta because of their apprehension that they will be rendered unemployed. Sir, we are also in favour of having the auction in Gauhati; we are not against it, but the whole attempt today is not to help the producers in Assam and the whole attempt by Brooke Bond, which controls 78 per cent of tea exports and tea blending in this country, is to cripple the economy of West Bengal. My question is that, when they have a planning regarding tea for its auction and export, should they not take the interests of the country as a whole? If so, is it desirable at this stage to have the auctions also in Delhi and Gauhati because, if there is the auction in Gauhati, Sir, the price of tea will be reduced, because there are more people competing in the Calcutta auction. Thereby it will harm also the interests of Assam producers. So the question is, in view of the serious criticism in relation to the apprehension of unemployment, which is already acute in Calcutta . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please shorten your question?

SHRI KALYAN ROY: . . . are they going to review the whole thing and as at present carry on the auction from Calcutta?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Well, the Government of India has no hand in the tea auction market; it is done by the State Governments. The Assam Government, if they choose to have a tea auction market, we will not come in their way. Even the Tea Board cannot use its good offices in a matter like this. I appreciate

the arguments given by Mr. Kalyan Roy, but it is for the State Government to decide whether they want to leave it in Calcutta.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: My second question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I ask you to forgo your second question?

SHRI KALYAN ROY: If you ask me, Sir, then I will sit down. But he has not answered even my first question. I asked him—you may remember, Sir—whether there is the threat to employment in the Calcutta auction house, No. 1. I also asked him whether this auction in Gauhati will not lead to a reduction in the tea prices. But these questions he did not answer, Sir.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: As to unemployment, it would be there because, if half of the material goes to Gauhati, new people in Assam will find employment and the Calcutta people might be rendered surplus as a result. It is the logical consequence if there is any such move on the part of the Government of Assam.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM: May I know, Sir, whether there is opposition from interested quarters to any such move and, if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto? May I also know, Sir, when the auction centre is going to be started in Gauhati?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: It is for the State Government to decide, and if the Assam Government chooses to have the auction market or the auction centre in Gauhati, we will not come in their way.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: One thing I would like to tell. Why did the Minister say that the information is being collected? That procedure they are adopting time and again in order to avoid answering questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You now put your question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, this is pertinent. You find it repeatedly being done in the case of several ques-

tions though notice is given even a month ahead.

Now I would like to know whether there was a general strike in West Bengal on 14th July and one of the demands was that the tea auction centre should not be removed from Calcutta in order to cripple the economy of West Bengal.

Secondly I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating giving concessional freight rates from Gauhati to Kandla and thus waste public money in order to sponsor this project. Thirdly I would also like to know whether you have received any memorandum from the employees, some 2,000 or more—about a lakh of people are involved in it—and whether it is not a fact that warehousing, packaging, expertise and all these are developed in Calcutta over several years involving hundreds of crores of rupees and whether for the setting up of a new auction centre at Gauhati investment of another 100 crores would be required? Does that benefit the country in any way?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: We are not opening any tea auction centre at Gauhati or anywhere else. If the State Government of Assam is pressing for it they have to provide the warehousing and other facilities. Assam grows tea and a good quantity of it and if that growing State wants to have its own selling centre how can we create any difficulty for them? Of course it might lead to unemployment in Calcutta. There might be a memorandum received in the office but I am not aware of it now. It is logical consequence that if a considerable part of the work is shifted from Calcutta, there will be unemployment, there will be difficulty, there will be duplication also but these are all arguments against having a centre at Gauhati. But if the Assam Government wants to have it how can we stop them? They are within their rights.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, he has not answered my question. I asked whether the Government of India is contemplating giving concessional freight rates over the Railways from Gauhati to Kandla. That would be a

wasteful expenditure of public money, I want to know whether they are thinking of that or not. Let him answer that.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I want notice for it, I am not aware of it.

श्री आर०पी० खैतान : क्या मंत्री जी वनलायोंगे कि चाय के आयात व निर्यात में जो गोहाटी की बान है उसने यह है कि बंगाल में जो चाय की इट्टी होती है, जो चाय आसाम में आती है उस पर किसी प्रकार का टैक्स लगाया गया है जिसके कारण से आसाम के ऊपर उसका बोझा पड़ रहा है और इससे सारे देश में जो आयात होता है उसमें दाम बढ़ जाता है ? क्या इस कारण से ही आसाम वालों ने गोहाटी के लिये इस प्रकार की माग की है ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र: चाय के ऊपर देश के भीतर में जो एक्साईज लगता है वही लगता है, दूसरे कोई स्टेट गर्वनमेंट ने इस पर लगाया है कुछ इसकी इतिला मेरे पास कोई नहीं है ।

SHRI BIPINPA L DAS: Is it a fact that a recent conference of the producers, sellers and buyers of Assam tea held in the second week of June at Shillong had unanimously come to the conclusion that it would be in the best interests of all the three parties concerned to start an auction centre for Assam tea at Gauhati? Do the Government agree that the auction centre at Calcutta can very well carry on its business for Bengal tea even after the establishment of the auction centre at Gauhati and therefore Calcutta should not object to or create any difficulty for the tea industry of Assam reaping the benefits from the auction centre at Gauhati to which they are rightly entitled?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Shri Niren Ghosh will take note of it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Since he has referred to me I would like to say that if you give power to us over freight rates, trade, commerce and industry we will manage our own affairs.

### त्रिवेन्द्रम में रूसी सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र

\*97. श्री लाल आडवाणी :

डा० भाई महावीर : †

श्री टी० वी० आनन्दन :

श्री नवल किशोर :

क्या वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ समय पूर्व भारत सरकार ने त्रिवेन्द्रम में रूसी सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र बनाए जाने पर आपत्ति की थी किन्तु अब इसके बनाए जाने की अनुमति दे दी है ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो पहले अनुमति न दिए जाने और अब दे देने के क्या कारण हैं , और

(ग) क्या सरकार अन्य देशों के सांस्कृतिक केन्द्रों तथा पुस्तकालयों को भी पुनः कार्य शुरू करने की अनुमति देने का विचार रखती है ?

‡[RUSSIAN CULTURAL CENTRE AT TRIVANDRUM

\*97. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: †

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime back the Government of India had objected to the construction of a Russian Cultural Centre at Trivandrum but now they have permitted its construction;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for refusing permission in the first instance and permitting the same now; and

(c) whether Government propose to permit the cultural centres and libraries of other countries also to start functioning again?]

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

‡[ ] English translation.