

RUBBER GOODS MAKING MACHINERY

64. SHRI Z. i v. AHMAD :

SHRI BALACHANDRA
MENO «} :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a plant in India for the manufacture of rubber goods making machinery with foreign collaboration;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) whether any foreign firms have offered collaboration in setting up the proposed plant; and

(d) if so, the names of the firms which have offered collaboration and the terms of the offer made?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKH RUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) Government have no proposal to set up a plant for the manufacture of rubber goods making machinery with foreign collaboration.

(b) to (d) Cannot arise.

NEWS-ITEM ON INDIGNITIES SUFFERED BY HARIJANS

65. SHRI IWIJENDRALAL SENGUPTA :

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times on the 3rd November, 1969 regarding the instances of indignities suffered by the Harijans as brought out in the report of the committee on untouchability, economic and educational development of the Scheduled Casts for 1969; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE for THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SMT.) PHULRENLU GUHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments concerned have been addressed in the matter and their replies are awaited.

SALEM STEEL PLANT

66. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had a meeting with the representatives of the Government of Tamil Nadu during the third week of October, 1969 in Madras;

(b) if so, whether the question of setting up of the Salem Steel Plant was discussed; and

(c) whether the Steel Plant be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Decision regarding inclusion of Salem Steel Plant in the 4th Five Year Plan is yet to be taken.

FELICITATION TO THE CHAIRMAN

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : Mr. Chairman, I deem it to be a privilege to extend a very warm welcome to you. You are no stranger to this House. You have distinguished yourself as a Parliamentarian and as a Minister in the past. You have earned a reputation for ability, integrity and judicious acumen of rare quality. With your background as a judge, as an eminent jurist, as a diplomat and as an intellectual you have enriched different walks of public life and we have no doubt that we shall benefit considerably by your wise guidance and equanimous temperament.

It is only in times of stress and strains that one is called upon to give his best and very healthy precedents are created. We will be facing in this House momentous occasions when your wisdom, fairness and generosity will enable us to be participants in equitable decisions which posterity will acclaim with gratitude and will uphold as the highest traditions of parliamentary democracy.

Sir, I have no doubt that you will bring to bear on your high and exalted office not only the rich and valuable ex-

[Shri K. K. Shah]

perience of a selflessly devoted career but your rare acumen of justice and fair-play. On our part, I wish to assure on my behalf and on behalf of Government that you will have our fullest support and co-operation in not only upholding the privileges of each individual Member in a just and equitable manner. It will be our endeavour to judge each issue with sobriety and in national interest. Needless to assure you that we shall strive our utmost to accommodate every point of view.

May I once again extend to you our warmest felicitations.

RE : ALLOTMENT OF SEATS

SHRI S. N. MISHRA (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, can he speak from this side of the House?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : I have already applied . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order, Mr. Chairman . . .

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan) : I would like to know whether a seat has been allotted to him? And if so, what is Mr. Gupta's objection?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Will you listen to my point of order? Mr. Chairman, my point of order is this. (*Interruption by Shri S. N. Mishra*) He has come here. He does not obey you even after you have asked him to explain. However, my point of order is this. I am not fascinated by any seats . . .

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : You can as well go over to that side.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Where we will go I do not know. I have not gone anywhere. Mr. Chairman, kindly listen to my point of order. Mr. Chairman, you are a jurist. First of all, the rule of the House and the convention of Parliament is that the leader of the major Opposition group has his seat next to the Deputy Chairman's, and when the Deputy Chairman is not there, the matter of courtesy, sometimes he occupies the seat next to him. Now, I

find we have no Deputy Chairman. Mr. Mishra is sitting in that seat. Surely, he is not the Deputy Chairman.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, we do not know if you have recognised a group of Congressmen as the main Opposition group. My friends now belong to, what they call, the Syndicate-Jan Sangh-Swatantra axis. They are sitting there . . .

श्री सुंदर सिंह भंडारी : मैंने आपसे एक स्पष्टीकरण पूछा था कि क्या आपने उनको यह सीट दे दी है तो उनके आबजेशन की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। या मित्र जी यहां पर जबरदस्ती बैठे हैं ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are the Chairman of the House. If you have allotted him this seat you will say so. If they have taken the leave of the House to sit as a separate group, then we have two Congress Parties in Parliament, one sitting here and the other sitting there. It is unheard of. There is defection. Defectors cannot be given the status of the main Opposition group. They did not win in elections. That is the constitutional point. You can flout the Constitution if you like. Elections are fought on the basis of party tickets, party nominations. We find some Congressmen have defected from the Congress Parliamentary Party. Now they want to sit here. How can they be called Opposition? Mr. Chairman, I would request you for our convenience, let Mr. Mishra and his followers wear black kurtas and black sarees so that we can distinguish them from the rest of the Congress . . . (*Interruption by Shri J. P. Yadav*). They should explain whether they are in the Opposition and yet claim to be the Congress Party. They have defected. Unless they form a new party I cannot understand their claim. He has not formally disowned the Congress organisation. He was the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party only in the last session. Today I find him in the Opposition claiming to be the Leader of the Opposition. I should like to know in what capacity is he here. (*Interruption by Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel*) He has joined the Swatantra-Jan Sangh group. It is good. It is good to see you all hugging and sitting together. I am not concerned with the constitutional part of the position. Unless Mr. Mishra clarifies that he does not belong to the Congress Party and has formed a new party . . .

SHRI C. D. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, this morning when I entered