

DR. Z. A. AHMED : May I know whether it is a fact that sugar is being exported at a price much lower than the prevailing market price in the country?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : That does not come under the general specification of assistance that we have been giving. I shall have to get the details from my colleague, the Minister of Food, who is looking after the production of sugar.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS

*415. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign collaboration agreements upto date in different fields of industry which have continued for more than ten years;

(b) the number of the foreign collaboration agreements which have now completed their period of collaboration; and

(c) the arrangements that have been made for research and development in the industrial undertakings where collaborations have terminated?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Madam, I do not know how long the hon. Minister will take to collect the information and place it on the Table of the House. Foreign collaboration agreements have been going on for ten years and twenty years but they have no information on the subject presently. That shows how our foreign collaboration policy is working. Therefore I would request that when the promised Statement is laid on the Table of the House this House should have the time to discuss the subject because this is a very vital point. The full facts may be given later but now may I know from the hon. Minister what were the broad reasons for renewal of these foreign collaboration agreements beyond the stipulated period often years and what is the broad percentage of collaboration agreements which are renewed.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Madam, I have no objection to the House discussing this matter particularly relating to the policy after the information is available and placed on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : How long would it take to collect the information and place it on the Table of the House ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I shall try to get it as early as possible.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Madam, he has not replied to the second part of my question, as to what are the general reasons for renewal of the foreign collaboration agreements. There may be a number of reasons which he may give later on, but what are the general reasons for the renewal of foreign collaboration agreements?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Madam, as to the general reasons I would like to inform the House that, so far as the extension of the period of foreign collaboration agreements is concerned, we have become very strict, and only in very exceptional cases where the production of the item is absolutely indispensable and is in the interests of the country and it is not possible for us to develop that technical know-how within our own country, we allow this extension in those cases, and I think it will be better that this matter is discussed when all the facts are available. I would also like to tell the hon. Member that the number of foreign collaboration agreements has considerably gone down in the year 1967 and in the present year.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Madam, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any study, say last year, has been made to evaluate the merits and demerits of these collaborations that have been entered into? And also I want to know from the Minister whether, with regard to the Fourth Five-Year Plan, any identification of the areas in which only the collaboration will be permitted has been made, and the areas where the collaboration will never be permitted. Has such a study been made in the Ministry?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Madam, so far as the general trend is concerned, I would like to tell the House

that it is quite effective in restricting foreign collaboration to the absolutely essential cases. May I just point out that before sanctioning foreign collaborations various aspects are taken into consideration, whether capacity in the particular field of industry is required to be developed having regard to our Plan targets, whether the technology involved is not indigenously available, whether the import of capital goods involved is of such a high order that without the collaboration proposal the implementation of the scheme would involve an avoidable drain on the foreign exchange resources of the country, whether the approval of the collaboration will jeopardise the industries already existing in that particular field, or in associated fields of industry, whether the proposals would involve any undue exploitation of foreign patents, trade names, etc., whether . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I do not think such a long statement is necessary. You may give a summary.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Madam now that the Minister is taking time to collect information, may I know if he will also collect information relating to renewals after fifteen years and renewals after twenty years and, secondly, may I know whether he will also collect the information of cases in which more than one Indian firm have been allowed to go to the same foreign country for seeking collaboration and importing know-how, and whether there have been cases where various Indian firms have gone to the same foreign firm and that same foreign firm is selling at prohibitive costs

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will do. The question is too long.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Madam, let me complete the sentence; otherwise the Minister will not know what information to collect. . . whether there have been cases where a number of Indian firms have gone to the same foreign firm for collaboration, and this country is making payments twice and thrice every year for the same know-how and, thirdly, may I know whether the Minister will collect information of the cases in which, in spite of Indian know-how and Indian designing and engineering skill being available with C.S.I.R. and other organisations in the country, influential firms have been allowed to go abroad to seek collaboration?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Madam, the information will be collected as far as possible.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would request Members to be very short and very brief and specific in their questions.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : May I point out that at present there is no Central machinery through which all this information can be collected but I shall do my best to obtain the information as far as is possible.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : If you really do your best you will succeed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam, I should like to know how many collaboration agreements each of ten years were entered into each year. Number one. And how many . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He may not have got these figures.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If he has got those figures, he should tell us. I am not asking the details; I am asking the total number of agreements entered into in each year and how many with the West and how many with the socialist countries, and how many each year between the private parties, I am very specific.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Madam, I would give the figures for the last few years. In 1960 there were 400 cases of foreign collaboration; in 1961 they were 405; in 1962 they were 300; in 1963 they were 301; in 1964 they were 405; in 1965 they were 242; in 1966 they were 202; in 1967 they were 183 and in 1968, up till recently, they were 65. As I pointed out, in recent years the number of foreign collaborations has specifically been coming down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : My next point is this—let him say he has not got the figures. I want to know—surely if he has got the figures—also how many each year are with the Western countries.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I have not got that information presently with me, but I can place it on the Table of the House later on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Even I can say all this from memory; I can tell you.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister cited just now some of the principles that guided these foreign collaborations. May I know this now from the hon. Minister? Is it a fact that we have allowed collaboration for the manufacture of biscuits, for the manufacture of lipsticks and now even for the manufacture of ice cream? May I know under what guiding principles these foreign collaborations have been allowed ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : There is collaboration even for running the Ashoka Hotel.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : I want to know under what guiding principles you have allowed them.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : If there could be foreign collaboration for running the Communist Party of India, why not for running the Ashoka Hotel?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It will be possible to discuss all these matters after the details are available because, then, Members will know what kind of extensions have been allowed during recent years.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam, I want your protection. My question has not been replied to. My first question was what were the guiding principles regarding foreign collaboration. Then I asked him why these collaboration agreements for ice cream, lipstick, biscuits, etc. have been allowed. May I know from the Minister what the reasons are?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He said that he was collecting information on it.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I We have, first of all, to know when these were allowed and whether, in any case, these had been extended after the period had expired.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : May I know whether the Government is aware of the deleterious effects of this foreign collaboration on Indian science and know-how and the development of Indian scientific talent and whether the Association of Scientific Workers of India have protested against the liberal import of foreign know-how and foreign collaboration ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :

Our policy is very clear. So long as indigenous know-how is available, we do not allow foreign know-how to come to our country and it is also our policy to develop technical know-how as far as possible. As the hon. Member may have read in the newspaper, I have been considering a procedure whereby, through a central agency foreign know-how can be taken and then distributed to all the manufacturers in our country. We are considering such a scheme and we shall try how soon we can make decision regarding this.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Will the hon. Minister acquaint this House with the number of cases where letters of intent were issued about three or four years ago and yet the collaboration agreement are not finalised. What is the cause of such delay?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :

I do not know if the hon. Member has any specific case in mind. There are letters of intent which were issued a number of years ago and where no steps have been taken by the party concerned. Either they have been revoked or they are in the process of being revoked.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. I think the hon. Minister has information, because the Finance Ministry had circulated the information to Members of Parliament. This is very unfair. Madam, I put it to you that the Finance Ministry had submitted information to Members of Parliament showing how many collaboration agreements had been arrived at with the Western countries and various groups of countries and do I understand that the Minister does not have the information?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

B.I.C. DIRECTORS

*416. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of Parliament approached Government in connection with the nomination