

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 21st August, 1968/the
30th Sravana, 1890 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*557. [The questioner (Shri Chitta Basu) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3803-3804 infra.]

PERMISSION FOR SETTING UP OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRES AND LABORATORIES

*558. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of firms or foundations which have been granted permission to set up research and development centres/laboratories in India;

(b) the amount of capital and recurring expenditure incurred on them;

(c) whether the results of the research carried out by them are exploited by their parent bodies outside India;

(d) how many patents have been taken by them in India;

(e) the number of their patents licensed in India and abroad separately; and

(f) the amount of royalties and fees received by licensing of their patents abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research does not grant permission to firms or foundations to set up research and development centres/laboratories in India.

(b) to (f) As these details relate to firms in private sector Government have no information.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : We have heard the reply. They say that the CSIR does not give the permission. If they are not giving, it must be dealt with by some other Ministry and they could have referred to them. This is

a very important thing that we ask and such replies are given. You know that foreign firms are having their research centres like the CIBA. How are they established? Are they established in the private sector without the permission of the Government? How do they function. The basic question arises here that research work for patents is done here. Are they filed in India or abroad? According to my information, the patents, the work for which has been done here, are filed in foreign countries in the name of their parent organisations and not their Indian associates. I want to know the position. Are we in touch with such things?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I cannot contradict the Member whether there are centres or not. All that I can say is, in my Ministry the CSIR or any other organisation does not give any permission to foreign concerns to have such things. Whether there are or not is for the other Ministry concerned to say and he has to direct the question to the Ministry concerned. He asked whether we have asked the Industry Ministry and the DGTD. We have asked them and we have been told that they have no information on this.

SHRI A. D. MANI : The question says : (a) the name of the firms or foundations which have been granted. We are not concerned with the CSIR. As the Member put it, there are other pharmaceutical concerns which have set up laboratories and research centres and the Ministry should have ascertained from the concerned Ministry about the facts.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is not a question of the CSIR. I emphasised the CSIR because that is the technical wing through which the Ministry, if at all gives any technical help for such things. All that I said was that the Education Ministry is not giving any such permission to any foreign firm or foundation.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : You have heard the reply. Are you satisfied? When CIBA and the ICI have their establishment, have the Government no

information to give to this House? What is the Government doing? Are the patents filed in this country or in foreign countries? Research work is being done by Japan. A foreign foundation is doing research. They are not to be allowed because it is brain drain from the country. The private bodies give better emoluments and because of that good, talented research people go to private bodies and they do not come to the national laboratories. May I know whether the scales of pay of the workers in the research laboratories by the private sector are more than in the national laboratories and, if so, what attempt is being made to get them in our national laboratories rather than allow them to go to the private sector or foreign dominated concerns?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I would respectfully submit for the Member's consideration that in the name of the Government of India all the information cannot be given by one Ministry. So far as my Ministry is concerned, regarding this we have not given any permission nor do we give any permission to any foreign firm or foundation to have their research laboratories. So far as the scales of pay for the research scholars in the foreign and private sector are concerned, I said in reply to part (b), (c) and (d) of the question that we have no information and therefore it is not possible to give any information on this.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, you must come to the protection of the Members. You have been hearing the replies of the Ministers. They sometimes evade the issue and sometimes they are vague. They are refusing information to the Parliament and we have no information whether the Government have any source to get the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you consider getting the information?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I am second to none in paying respect to the Parliament since I have been in the Parliament for the last 12 years I have never intended to hide even a small information from the Parliament and all that I said was that in this

case we do not give any permission and regarding the other part, I said that we have no information about the private companies. We also enquired from the Industrial Development Ministry and the DGTD and they also have no information. What further can I say in the matter?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : The question put by Mr. Krishan Kant is a very simple one. It is known that several private firms in India engage themselves in research and spend money on it. The question is whether the Government has any mechanism of collecting information regarding the achievements of research done by these private sector research establishments.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Foreign dominated.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : They may be foreign dominated, many of them are and some of them may be Indians also. May I know whether the Government have any mechanism or not. If the Government does not have any mechanism, will they consider the advisability of evolving a mechanism so that the scientific knowledge achieved in the country is available to the Government?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is true and I have personal knowledge that there are concerns which are doing research but they are not concerned primarily with research for research sake. They are associated with industries where the research is being done. There must be a mechanism in the Government for this but all that I can say is, we are not concerned with this. Therefore, you cannot expect the information from my Ministry. All that I say is on the research part done in the Education Ministry, I can reply but some research may be done associated with the Industries and that Ministry may have some other mechanism but we cannot say anything about it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Minister at least in regard to the CSIR, whether any attempt is being made to co-relate the research done in the private firms with the research done in the CSIR in its laboratories so that the duplication, extra

expenditure and the patent's profit being sent abroad. can be stopped?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : As I said, the CSIR knows what it is doing about research. The research done in its laboratories all over the country is definitely being coordinated. The CSIR helps such research associations sometimes in setting up their research laboratories but they are primarily concerned with the Indian industries, not about the foreign firms and the foundations.

PROF. SAIYID NURUL HASAN : In view of the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers, will the Minister be pleased to say who is responsible among the Council of Ministers for giving permission to foreign firms to establish research institutions in India? After all a foreign firm establishing a research foundation in the country can do so only with somebody's permission or approval. Would he kindly enlighten us as to who that somebody is?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I am sorry, as I said, it does not lie within us and I cannot say about this question.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : The answer given by the hon. Minister apparently means that there is no need for any permission to set up any research laboratory by any firm. Yet, I fail to see why information regarding such laboratories in the private sector should not be available when, from time to time, at the initiative of the C. S. I. R. itself meetings of scientists and those who are connected with research work in the private sector have been held. Not only that; research instruments and other apparatus for research are required, for which foreign exchange is allowed by the Government itself. So there is no reason for not knowing things. May I suggest that the hon. Minister may take a little more pains to collect the information?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, I am thankful for the advice, but then we took all the pains to ask for it from the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs, from the Department of Industrial Development, and the Directorate-General of Technical Development. They said that they had

no information. As I said, we took all the pains regarding the matter. The point is that this question related to whether we give any permission to any foreign firm or foundation. We took all the pains and we said that we did not give any such thing to any such firm or foundation. All that I have said already. I may add this, so far as the C. S. I. R. and my Ministry are concerned, so far as giving assistance to certain industrial research associations, which are the co-ordinating bodies of the different industries in this country, is concerned, the C. S. I. R. help them both with recurring and non-recurring grants for the research work they do. But they are primarily concerned with the Indian industries. That is all the information that I have and I can give.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : Sir, research in the public sector and in the private sector is an integrated affair, and the exchange of information about research is a matter of national importance. May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether there is any national institute or national bureau for the exchange of information regarding the research done by various bodies and in the public sector and the private sector?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, we have got an organisation under C.S.I.R. where we collect all the information pertaining to research carried on in the different industries in the country and outside the country. What type of research is being carried on and what is being found out, they are being discussed at joint meetings of industrialists and the research workers in our National Laboratories; that way there is co-ordination. Here the main question, as you find, asks for the names of firms or foundations which have been granted permission to set up research laboratories. And we have said that we do not give any such permission nor do we know who gives the permission. We tried to collect the information. We even referred to the Finance Ministry because there was a recommendation that if any industrial concern started a research institution it should be given some concession so

far as the payment of income-tax is concerned. Therefore we enquired from the Finance Ministry if they gave any such permission or concession. But they could not give us any list. Of course we are aware of the researches that are being carried on in the different universities.

MR CHAIRMAN : Next question.

गंगा में वाणिज्यिक नौवहन की सुविधाएं

559. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या परिवहन तथा नौवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पटना तथा कलकत्ता के बीच गंगा नदी में कार कम्पनी के जो जहाज चलते थे, वे अब नहीं चलते, जिस से उस क्षेत्र के व्यापारियों को बहुत असुविधा हो रही है, और

(ख) क्या सरकार गंगा में वाणिज्यिक नौवहन की सुविधाएं देने की सभावनाओं का पता लगाने का विचार रखती है और यदि हा, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

†[MERCHANT SHIPPING FACILITIES IN THE GANGES

*559. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the sailing of the ships of the Karr Company on the Ganges between Patna to Calcutta has now been stopped causing a lot of inconvenience to the businessmen in that region ; and

(b) whether Government propose to explore the possibilities of providing merchant shipping facilities in the Ganges and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?]

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) The Joint Steamer Companies, i.e. the Rivers Steam Navigation Company Ltd, and the India General Navigation and Railway Company Limited, locally known as "Karr Company" used to run services on the Ganga between Bihar and Calcutta. The Companies closed down their services 10 years ago (January 1958) as the services were reported to be unecono-

†[] English translation.

mic, in view of the decline of traffic by river route owing to the higher operating costs and also due to the development of faster means of communication by rail and road on the eastern region, which are catering to the needs of trade and commerce.

(b) The running of services on the Ganga between Bihar and Calcutta will be possible only after the completion of Farakka Barrage. A study to assess the traffic potential on the Ganga between Calcutta and Allahabad in the post-Farakka period has been taken up.

†[परिवहन तथा नौवहन मंत्री (प्रोफेसर वी० के० आर० वी० राव) : (क) ज्वाइंट स्टीमर कपनिया अर्थात् रिबर स्टीम नेविगेशन कपनी लिमिटेड और इंडिया जेनरल नेविगेशन एंड रेलवे कपनी लिमिटेड जिसका स्थानीय नाम कार कपनी है, बिहार और कलकत्ता के बीच गंगा नदी में सेवाएं चलाती थी। चालन की ऊंची लागत के कारण और पूर्वी क्षेत्र में तेज गति वाले रेल और सड़क संचार साधनों के विकास के कारण भी जो व्यापार की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति कर रहे हैं, नदी मार्गों के यातायात में कमी होने से इन सेवाओं के खर्चीली होने के कारण इन कपनियों ने उन्हें दस वर्ष पहले (जनवरी 1958 में) बंद कर दिया।

(ख) बिहार और कलकत्ता के बीच गंगा में सेवाएं चलाना फराका बाध के तैयार होने पर ही संभव होगा। गंगा में कलकत्ता और इलाहाबाद के बीच उत्तर फर का काल में संभाव्य यातायात के मूल्यांकन के लिए एक अध्ययन शुरू किया गया है।]

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हू कि सरकार ने जो एक आदमी की कमेटी बनाई थी, नाम मुझे याद नहीं आ रहा है, शायद लोकुर कमेटी थी, उसकी रिपोर्ट सरकार के पास आई या नहीं ?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO : I am not aware of any Lokur Committee as far as this is concerned.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सरकार ने एक वन मैन कमेटी बनाई थी जिस ने इस बात की

†[] Hindi translation.