

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring prohibition under Concurrent List by amending the Constitution ; and

(b) If so, the time by when it is likely to be amended ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI) PHUL-RENU GUHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF GROUNDNUT OIL

1114. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import groundnut oil from foreign countries this year ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to import Groundnut oil from foreign countries this year.

†DISTRICT-WISE SETTING UP OF AGRO-INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY

676. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up agro-industries on district wise basis in the country to develop and promote agricultural production ;

(b) if so, the types of agro-industries proposed to be set up ;

(c) whether there are any agro-industries functioning, in the country ; and

(d) if so, how many and of what type, and where these are located ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

†Transferred from the 2nd December 1968.

(c) and (d) So far 12 Agro-Industries Corporations have been established in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madras, Punjab, Orissa, Mysore, U. P., Kerala and West Bengal at State level with jurisdiction over the entire State. These are all Government Companies and the State Governments and the Central Government are the share holders. The main functions of these Corporation are :

(i) promote and execution of industries having a bearing on production preservation and supply of food ;

(ii) enabling persons engaged in agricultural and allied pursuits to own the means of modernising their operations ;

(iii) distribution of agricultural machinery and implements as well as equipment pertaining to processing, dairy, poultry, fishers and other industries connected with agriculture ;

(iv) undertaking or assisting in the efficient distribution of inputs for agriculture ; and

(v) providing technical guidance to farmers and persons concerned with agro-industries with a view to enabling efficient conduct of their enterprise.

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED STATEMENT BY MR. SKACHKOV, CHAIRMAN, STATE COMMITTEE OF THE U. S. S. R. FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS REGARDING POOR PERFORMANCE OF THE HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION, RANCHI

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs to the reported observation of the Soviet Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. Skachkov, that want of co-ordination between various Ministries of the Government of India was responsible for poor performance of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, and that it could run as a profitable unit only after it was loaded to capacity production.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : Sir....

SHRI N. PATRA (Orissa) : Sir, on a point of order. I want to know how these questions are being admitted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can discuss it in the Chamber.

SHRI N. PATRA : Is it so important ? An ordinary matter is being admitted for the Call Attention Motion. I do not think....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can come and discuss with me in the Chamber.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, a Soviet Delegation headed by H. E. Mr. S. A. Skachkov, Chairman, State Committee of the U.S.S.R. for Foreign Economic Relations is at present in our country. The Delegation arrived on the 27th November, 1968, and after preliminary discussions in New Delhi, visited Ranchi, Bokaro and Bhilai and are, at present, having discussions regarding the present working of some of the Soviet-aided industrial undertakings in the country. These discussions have covered various aspects of working of some of the plants including the Heavy Machine Building Plant of the H.E.C. Ranchi and the different measures necessary to ensure the optimum utilisation of these plants. In this connection, the question of adequate orders on this and other machine-building units besides other Soviet-aided projects in the Public Sector, to utilise fully the capacities in these plants has also been discussed, along with various other measures necessary to ensure rapid build-up of production and increased productivity, so that these units yield adequate financial returns.

The news item in "The Hindustan Times" of 11th December, 1968 on this subject which is within the mind of the hon. Member is not a wholly correct version of the discussions held with the Soviet Delegation and is hence apt to mislead. These discussions are still going on and will continue into the next week.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : May I ask whether the Minister from the Soviet Union pointed out what we have been pointing out repeatedly to Government that it is their inefficient management, their want of co-ordination, their

antiquated methods, their total absence of cost-consciousness which do not allow them to stand on their own legs and it is their dogmatic planning that is responsible for these plants running in this way needing more and more capital and not paying any return ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : May I say that I do not know where from the hon. Member got this word and so far as I am concerned... (*Interruptions*)... they have neither used the word 'inefficient' nor used the word 'antiquated'. What they have said is that these plants are sophisticated plants which require time to develop. But at the same time work should be provided to these plants so that the idle capacity may not remain in these plants. And for that purpose we have to take this into consideration when we consider our Fourth Five Year Plan.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Sir, Since it is obvious from the answer of the Minister that the plants do not have enough work at least at present and there is a lot of idle capacity, is it not very obvious that the planning of the plants and the ordering of such plants which will lead to surplus capacity in so many years, is responsible for the losses that the plants are running into and for more losses that they may make until they are able to show profits ? And that is the important aspect that has been pointed out by the Minister from the Soviet Union,

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The hon. Member, I think, is not taking into consideration what useful purpose these plants are serving. They have brought about, to a very great extent, import substitution of basic materials which we hitherto were importing from outside. It is because of certain changes which have taken place during the last few years that it has not been possible for us to provide the necessary work for these plants. But we are hoping that in the next few years when the situation improves, it will be possible for us to give sufficient work so that the idle capacity of these plants may not remain.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the Government aware that the machinery required by this country and which could be manufactured in these public sector undertakings is not ordered from these undertakings. If I may say, the Birla firms

[Shri M. M. Dharia]

were allowed to import from General Motors machinery worth crores of rupees during the last five years, and Hindustan Machine Tools concern would have required at least three years to produce the same machinery. It has appeared in the Press that the American Adviser who was here has stated that this machinery would be manufactured in the Hindustan Machine Tools and it would have taken them three years. So, instead of placing such orders with the Hindustan Machine Tools, Government allowed crores worth of imports to the Birlas. It is the non-coordination in the various Ministries which has caused these machines to lie idle. Under these circumstances, will the hon. Minister assure this House today that whatever could be manufactured in this country will not be allowed to be imported by any concern whatsoever and that there will be a proper co-ordination between the various Ministries of the Government ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, it has been my policy to see that so far as items which can be manufactured indigenously without any assistance from outside are concerned, they should have preference, and they should not be allowed to be imported.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : But that is not the policy of your officers

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Some things might have happened in the past. But we will see to what extent these difficulties can be overcome so that the capacity which we have created in our country is, first of all, utilised before importing any item from outside.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, इस ध्यानाकर्षण में जो कि श्री डा. ह्याभाई पटेल ने किया उसमें उन्होंने लिखा है कि रूस के वैदेशिक आर्थिक सबंधों के मंत्री श्री स्काश्कोव की इस कथित टिप्पणी की ओर मैं औद्योगिक विकास तथा समवाय कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाऊंगा कि हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन, रांची के असतोषजनक कार्य निष्पादन का कारण भारत सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों में तालमेल का अभाव है।

तो जिसकी ओर श्री डा. ह्याभाई पटेल ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया उसके सम्बन्ध में माननीय मंत्री ने कुछ कहा ही नहीं, वह अपनी जगह

छिपा हुआ है। श्री डा. ह्याभाई यह जानना चाहते हैं, आपके द्वारा माननीय मंत्री जी से कह रहे हैं कि श्री स्काश्कोव साहब का यह कथन है कि रांची में जो हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन है वह ठीक ढंग से काम क्यों नहीं कर रहा है और इसका मूल कारण है केन्द्रीय सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों में तालमेल का अभाव। यह सत्य है या असत्य है ? और यदि यह सत्य है तो सरकार हमको बताये कि वह तालमेल का अभाव क्या है, किन किन मंत्रालयों के बीच में तालमेल का अभाव है और क्यों है और वह कब तक दूर होगा और वह दूर होगा कि नहीं दूर होगा ? इसकी पूरी सफाई आनी चाहिये।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत गलत होगा यह कहना कि हमारे बाहर के मेहमान ने यहाँ आ कर ऐसी बात कही कि मुक्तलिफ मिनिस्ट्रीज में इस किस्म का इक्वितलाफ है।

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : वह बात तो सही बात है।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : लेकिन इस वक्त सवाल यह है कि उन्होंने कहा है या नहीं, तो उन्होंने नहीं कहा है। दूसरा सवाल यह है कि आज एच. ई. सी. का जो प्लाट है वह एक बहुत सोफिस्टिकेटेड प्लाट है जिसके जरिये हम मिलियन टन का स्टील प्लाट हर एक वर्ष में बनाने के लिये वहाँ से कामपोनेट दे सकते हैं और वह ऐसा प्लाट है जिसके लिये आर्डर हमको फारेन ही नहीं मिलना चाहिये।

श्री राजनारायण : मंत्री जी आउट आफ प्वाइट हो रहे हैं, हमारे सवाल का जवाब नहीं हो रहा है। मेरा सवाल था कि रूस के वैदेशिक मंत्री ने यह कहा या नहीं...

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : : नहीं उन्होंने नहीं कहा...

श्री राजनारायण : और कहा तो क्यों कहा, तालमेल का अभाव है या नहीं और अगर है तो कब तक दूर होगा और अगर नहीं दूर होगा तो क्यों नहीं होगा और दूर होगा तो कब दूर होगा। ये चार सवाल हैं, इन चारों का मंत्री जी सीधा जवाब दे।

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I have already replied that to attribute certain statements to our honoured guests will not be desirable. He has not said those things. What I am pointing out is this. The H. E. C. plant is a very sophisticated plant which has been set up to manufacture basic items of capital goods to set up a plant of one-million ton steel plant every year and we have to see that not only a decision should be taken but the decision should be taken in time because it takes two to three years' planning for the purpose of producing those things. That is why we say that so far as the question of steel production is concerned, that is a matter under consideration with the Planning Commission as to what extent they can take up this work and give the necessary work to the H. E. C. in order to remove its idle capacity....

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Nobody here, I believe....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Be patient.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : would ever suggest that we showed any disrespect to our foreign guests who came here to help us in this matter. But the point is....

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : We are grateful to them when they point out our faults.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am glad that once at least my friend, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, has tended to agree with the Soviet people.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : I am willing to take from any one.

SHRI ABID ALI (Maharashtra) : Who says he has agreed ? He has not agreed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Let us not take it in that spirit. The hon'ble Minister should tell us exactly what they said, the implications of it by way of helping the Corporation and so on.

Now I come to the private sector. May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that one, Mr. T. Gupta, from the Jay Engineering of L. Shri Ram, was brought there and put in charge of the Ranchi Heavy Engineering Industry and the gentleman made a mess of it including his involvement in communal disturbances and he had to be removed. First of all, such people should not be brought....

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Only defeated Ministers should find a place on these plants.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You go after Biju Patnaik who go after Lala Shri Ram and the Birlas. Since the hon'ble Minister has referred to other things, there were some wrong things, bad industrial relations due to that gentleman who had to be removed. I mean Mr. T. Gupta of that particular concern. Is it also not a fact— since he has referred to policy— that the Hindustan Cables of Asansol is being sabotaged ? Orders which should come to the Hindustan Cables are being given to the Tatas. I should like to know whether the hon'ble Minister has not met a deputation from the workers of the Hindustan Cables who have pointed out as to how that public sector undertaking....

MR. CHAIRMAN : That question does not arise out of this question. This question refers to Ranchi Heavy Electrical Engineering.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, you know more than I do. All that I say is that it is all due to the connections between the monopolists and the public sector undertakings where directly or indirectly their henchmen put all sorts of difficulties. I have just cited one case of the Hindustan Cables of Asansol, how it is being today sabotaged in order to please the Tatas, so that the Tatas can take over the works there. They are creating idle capacity. Orders are not being placed with the Hindustan Cables. Tatas were being brought in to do the work which the public sector undertaking, the Hindustan Cables, should do. The hon'ble Minister should kindly take us into confidence and explain on the subject and tell us a little more than what he has told.

DR. B. N. ANTANI (Gujarat) : Will he ever do that ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Many of the questions that have been raised are not relevant to the issues of the subject matter. So far as the question of agreement and disagreement between Mr. Dahyabhai Patel and Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is concerned, I leave them to decide between themselves as to what will be the proper thing to do. But I can say this much that we are examining all these things. When we set up certain units in the public sector they have been set up for two purposes, firstly, in order

[Shri Fakkruddin Ali Ahmed]

bring about import substitution, and secondly, in order to yield revenue for the purpose of increasing the resources of our country. It will be our effort to see that whatever work can be provided to the public sector will be provided so that their full capacity may be utilised.

So far as the reference to the previous Chairman is concerned, I will not like to go into this question because he is no longer there. But since he has left and the present Chairman has gone there, I can say this much that there has been considerable improvement in the functioning of this sector.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He has not answered the other part of the question. What about the Hindustan Cables of Asansol ? It has imported whereas he has been again and again saying that idle capacity will not be created and the people will be given work there. Now the Hindustan Cables is a case in point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question is not involved in this. The Hindustan Cables need not be mentioned at all.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This relates to policy and we can speak on it. Why do you not get up ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : May I say that I respect your ruling ? Since you have ruled it out I did not refer to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not ruled out anything. But this question need not come into this matter. He can put another question about it. I must give chance to others because others are anxious to put their questions.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is he prepared to answer a short notice question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of ruling in this matter. The only thing is that this question should not come in here. Therefore, you can put another question. We shall look into this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, If I fail to make you understand whom else can I make understand ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry if in our opinion I have failed to understand.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is the frustration from which I suffer. If I am unable to convince such a great man as your goods self, how can I make them understand ? He said that they are helping with indigenous material, that they are seeing to it that there is no idle labour. All that is good. In that connection a question was raised about certain Birla concerns. He mentioned this thing and I cited a concrete case of the Hindustan Cables and even mentioned that some people had come and met him and placed papers in his hands and pointed out how things are being destroyed, exactly things which he would not like to happen. Then he should tell us in this connection apropos of it as to what he is going to do in this matter.

Now, Sir, you have not given a ruling. Will the hon. Minister kindly get up ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you put a short notice question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All right Sir.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Chairman, may I ask whether it is not a fact that the philosophy of mixed economy has permeated too much in the mind of the Government of India and the honourable visitor from the Soviet Union had said that in their expressions the Government of India had been pleading for the public sector but in actual practice they had been encouraging the private sector in all the remunerative enterprises that can be tackled by the public sector ? Is it also not a fact that, as indicated by hon. friend, Mr. Rajnarain, the various departments of the Government of India are working at loggerheads and contradictory to one another ? Just, for instance, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that Indian Aluminium was allowed foreign investment of three million dollars by the Finance Ministry without having any consultation with the Industrial Development Ministry and there was a row over this question between the Industrial Development Ministry and the Finance Ministry. The highest person in the Finance Ministry supported the Indian Aluminium case and a foreign investment of three million dollars was allowed against all the interests of the nation, and the hon. Minister, I assert, has personal knowledge of it because ultimately it was stopped because of his intervention. Can he deny that

such contradictions are not there in the Government of India and because of that the public sector is suffering to-day ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I would like to appeal to this House that we must not attribute to our honourable guests what they have not said. I would like to acknowledge the various kinds of assistance which the Soviet Union has given us in setting up some very useful projects in our country ; there are no less than 27 such projects. And I am sure they would not like anything that they have not said to be attributed to them. We are discussing very frankly and in a friendly manner the very shortcomings and the very defects and how they can be removed ; and the process of discussion is still going on. Now, so far as the other question is concerned, I think, Sir, it would not be proper for me to reply when I have refused to reply to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's question because it is not relevant to this issue.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main point of my question was not what the Soviet experts have said. The main point of my question was that the philosophy of mixed economy has been brought to such a stage that the Government of India wittingly or unwittingly are supporting the private sector, and the hon. Minister must give a reply to that particular question. I gave that instance only to elaborate my point. Is the hon. Minister aware of such a tendency in the Government of India and, if such a tendency is there, what steps are being taken to see that the public sector is encouraged and the private sector does not get an upper hand ? That is my question.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I have said this is not clarification, but wherever such things come to our notice we rectify them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, what is the position ? Either you allow us, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not about Indian Aluminium.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He asked something and it should be replied to.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, चन्द्र शेखर जी का सीवा सवाल था कि क्या यह सरकार देश हित में मिश्रित अर्थ-व्यवस्था का दम्भ छोड़ेगी या नहीं ।

मिश्रित अर्थ-व्यवस्था को शुद्ध अर्थ-व्यवस्था कर दे, यह उनका मूल प्रश्न है और सरकार उसको घुमा रही है । आज इस देश का अहित इसमें है कि यहां मिक्सड इकानामी है ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Sir, this is a technical subject but we are introducing politics into it. I do not understand.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh) : May I have from the hon. Minister a list of all the sophisticated Russian machinery lying idle in the various public sector industries in India and the causes as to why they are remaining idle ? May I also know what action has been taken in this regard and who are responsible for keeping these machinery idle ? I am asking this question because, according to my information, machinery worth several crores of rupees is lying idle in various cities of India.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I have not got that list now. But here I must point out that I do not think there is any question of allowing machinery to remain idle. They have been set up. They have not been fully utilised because of our resources difficulties, because of the programme which we had anticipated to execute during the Fourth Five-Year Plan having had to be altered and so many other things.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the hon. Minister give us a statement of all the Russian machinery lying idle before the session ends ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It is not a question of the machinery lying idle. They have been set up; the units have been set up. It is a question of idle capacity. If the hon. Member wants, we would place a statement as to what is lying idle.

MR. CHAIRMAN : A statement may be placed.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I would like to have from the hon. Minister a clear cut reply to my clear-cut questions. I do not want him to create confusion when he is unable to reply to a question. Kindly, for God's sake, do not create confusion. If you do not have the facts, kindly tell the House "I do not have them." Now, I would like to know whether the expert from Russia has conveyed to him

[Shri Lokanath Misra]

his feelings about certain inefficiencies in some of the projects for which Russian help has come to us, and whether he has said that because of this inefficiency the full capacity could not be used. That is number one. Number two, I would like to know whether he has said that there has been too much of centralisation of power and therefore, easy functioning of the plants has not been possible and, therefore, production has been impeded. Number three, I should like to know whether he has said that because many of the plants here do not maintain the standard specifications, the products are not getting good market. They must maintain the standard specifications. Is it because they are not maintaining them, they are finding it difficult to sell in the world market? Here they have a monopoly. It is not a question of the Indian market. You do not want to sell in India only. So, I would like to know whether there has been some comment from the Soviet expert on these three points. Even if he has not commented, kindly do not say "He has not said anything", because we do not know, I do not know and the Chairman does not know what he has conveyed to you; you might also be withholding certain facts, kindly tell us whether these things exist and it is because of this that the projects cannot go on as fruitfully as they should.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALIAHMED : Sir, I have already pointed out—I do not know why the hon. Member is again repeating this question—that the word "inefficiency" has not been used by our guest. So far as the third question is concerned, about maintaining standards and so on, that has also not been raised in our discussion. So far as the question of giving the units autonomy and giving authority to the lower persons is concerned, that matter is under discussion.

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN (Madras): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask in respect of two points in my question. Firstly, in relation, to the plant and the factory itself, I understand there is a lot of indifference in attendance and administration on the part of the bureaucracy. Some officials hardly stay for two or three hours. It appears there are some machines to record the time as to when they come and go and it appears forty such machines have been deliberately destroyed. I am talking on the basis of a recent report in the "Statesman". I would like to know incidentally how far that is correct. But that is not the main thing. Irrespective of whether the Soviet represen-

tatives said such a thing or not, a very important question has been raised here and we are grateful to Mr. Dahyabhai Patel for having brought it to the notice of this House. It may be the Soviet today, it may be the Americans tomorrow, somebody else some other day. The central point is our Ministries are not functioning in a coordinated way. That is one.

Secondly, our public project industries are being starved, are being made to lie idle, and so much public money has been wasted. What is the policy behind this? Why is it done? Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Chandra Shekhar mentioned about aluminium. My esteemed friend, Mr. Dharia, mentioned about preference being given to the Birla industries. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta mentioned about the H. E. C. having been by-passed. I can add to the list deals in respect of mining machinery and sugar machinery. Now, the Ranchi plant is a highly sophisticated plant. It can manufacture steel plants as well. And why is it lying idle? Is this House to believe that it is just an accident that when such a plant is available to us, this thing goes on getting done, namely, orders to the private sector, big businessmen and business houses being allowed? I have to say that what the honourable Minister says is so much of platitude, as if he is very much concerned about it, and in practice it is just the opposite. You are not concerned about the development of our public sector industry. That is what I want to say. Further he is showing concern about our guest repeatedly and he is evading a direct answer to the question. Is it not a fact there is lack of coordination between the Ministries? Are we not in a mess in the country more and more? The Steel Ministry obviously wants the plant to be used, but probably some other Ministry wants some private sector projects or private sector industries or big business houses to get the imported machinery. The honourable Minister unfortunately, in my opinion, has not appraised the House of information which he obviously must have. That is why with due respect, Mr. Chairman, I say—it is not all irrelevant—he has definitely to answer this. Why is it there is lack of indication on the specific issues which this question raises on a public sector plant which is getting stuck up and not functioning? Therefore, I would only end up by saying that so far as I see, whether the Soviet man said it or some other man said it, if anything is true, it is good for us. We have always been a nation which learns from others. The people who criticise us help us greatly rather than

those who flatter us and deceive us. My point is this that, so far as we are concerned in this particular case, is it the Minister's case that everything is all right or will he give forthright answers? There is no question of taking shelter repeatedly behind the guest of honour. We are not talking of the guests. The question is whether he is prepared to say right now that it will be done so in respect of this. My honest conviction is that this is symptomatic of the disease which is not only in the Ranchi steel plant that the Ministries are at loggerheads but practically on everything more and more things are going in that way. In our country today the schools are closed, factories are closed, the Ranchi plant is lying idle and all those things. So, I would respectfully request him to say whether they will make a change in their policies, otherwise, nothing will come right in this country.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, the honourable Member has made many observations. I think many of these observations, it would be proper to raise them when we are discussing the Fourth Five Year Plan which certainly will come up for discussion before this House. May I point out to him that so far as his information is concerned that the time-recording machines have been destroyed, it is incorrect. I do not know wherefrom he got this particular information. May I also point out that so far as the Ranchi plant is concerned, till the year 1970-71 we have got sufficient work for this Ranchi plant. Now our worry is that beyond 1971 we must get sufficient orders in time and that matter is being considered by the Planning Commission and it will be open to the Members of Parliament to exercise their influence to see that such amount as is necessary in order to keep this plant fully utilised, is given to us and the Planning Commission is made to accept our policy so that there will be no idle capacity. Those are questions which cannot be answered at the present moment.

DR. ANUP SINGH (Punjab) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in spite of the fact that three honourable Members gave specific instances in which the indigenous units were not only ignored, but some bigger units were allowed to import—Mr. Mohan Dharia mentioned one, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta mentioned another and Mr. Chandra Shekhar mentioned yet another—the honourable Minister's answer to all these was, "It has been my policy to encourage the indigenous projects." Nobody doubts that it is the declared policy and the honourable Minister sticks to it. But he

will be good enough to tell us, on concede at least, that there is an obvious discrepancy between the principles and the implementation. He has not given or cared to give or deemed it necessary to give any answer to any of the points that we raised. Why are the Birlas allowed to import? What is it that the American experts said that our Hindustan Machine Tools could have produced something within three years? I think that requires an answer. Similarly, the other two instances that were given. Each one is specific, categorical, very clear. The answer should not be that it has been my policy. It is your policy. We believe that you are utterly sincere in it. But is it being implemented? If you say, "Yes, it is being implemented", then there must be some answer to these specific problems that have been raised.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : As I have said, we are merely concerned with the statement with regard to the particular matter and any questions regarding clarifications can be asked. If the honourable Member wants to have exact information, I can give. I can point out this thing that whenever a deviation from any policy is brought to our notice, it is not at my level, it is beyond me at a higher level to see those things rectified, and we shall see that this policy is implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Arjun Arora. Kindly be brief. I am not going to charge you that you are not careful. What I say is please be brief.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, I will be the briefest of all the questioners. Sir, may I know whether in the discussions with the Soviet guest it came out that the idle capacity in the H. E. C. and other public sector plants is due firstly to the failure of the Government to produce a Five Year Plan, secondly to the criminal act of Government in putting an end to the economic development of the country and thirdly to giving favours to the big industrialists and allowing them to import things which can be indigenously manufactured?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I have already pointed out that it will not be fair to attribute to our Soviet guests some observations which they have not made. They have made no reference to the Five-Year Plan. They are here to help us to what extent these plants can best work.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know, Sir, from the Government whether they are aware that Mr. Skachkov stated that this underutilised capacity because of non-coordination has created problems not only for the Ranchi plant, but for the entire gamut of Soviet assisted industries in this country. He has stated that if such machine-building plants are run under-utilised and are not profitable the Soviet Union will consider afresh whether to give further assistance to this country. So, Sir, I draw your attention to the very serious nature of his observations. Apart from this and the other things that I may know from you, I should think that there must be absolute coordination in all the departments so that it may appear that it is all one department—just as you see it in the private sector and that you feed each firm with an order. In this connection may I also know whether the Government of India will talk with their Soviet counterparts that the manufacturing capacity of these plants, like the Heavy Engineering Corporation, will be utilised by the Soviet in the third countries where they are going to give aid so that we can have a balanced industrial capacity developed in this country, because the failure of the Fourth Plan is looming large and in that connection Government should take care on these two matters? Will the Government assure us on these, Sir?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It will be very unfair to attribute to them that they have given us a threat that they will not give assistance to the various works which we had set up with their collaboration. On the other hand, so far as the talk that I have had with Mr. Skachkov is concerned, he has been very good enough to say on behalf of the Government that whatever assistance is required will be forthcoming to see that these projects work profitably and in the best interests of the development of this country.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA (West Bengal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to disturb the Minister by referring to the Soviet Minister here but nevertheless, whether we refer to the name of the Soviet Minister or not, the point remains and the question here is that the performance of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, is very poor, whether the hon. Minister accepts it or not. The second contention is whether he also agrees that it is not run to the loaded capacity and it can be run profitably if it is run to the loaded capacity. The third thing is whether he agrees that there is no co-ordination

between the different departments of the Government. Fourthly if he does not consider that as the reason for the failure of the said plant what, according to him, are the reasons for the poor performance of the plant as such?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I think I have failed to say a thing which the hon. Member could appreciate. I have not said that the HEC plant has failed. What I have pointed out is that first of all we must remember that it is a very sophisticated plant which takes a very long time before it could pick up its full capacity. Even in the Soviet Union, I can tell you about a similar plant which was set up in Uralmash. It was set up in the year 1923; but till 1931 it was having its trouble and then it picked up and now it is working to its full capacity. Now, therefore, we have work, as I have said, till 1970-71, and there is no question of that plant remaining idle till 1970-71. But the question is that we do not know what will be our future plan for development or production of steel, say in the succeeding four or five years, and unless and until this is clarified now, it will not be possible for us to say whether its capacity will be fully utilised. And then, also I can say that its maximum capacity is 85,000 tonnes, but it cannot be utilised in the course of four or five years' time; it will require some more time to pick up that maximum capacity. That the hon. Member should realise.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : हमारे मित्र श्री डा. ह्याभाई पटेल ने जो प्रश्न पूछे उनके मंत्री जी ने बहुत बुद्धिमानी से उत्तर दिये लेकिन बहुत से जो विभिन्न मंत्रालय हैं उनमें आपस में तालमेल है या नहीं इसका उत्तर गोल उन्होंने दिया। मैं मंत्री जी से एक प्रार्थना कहूंगा कि यहां पर जैसे उन्होंने बताया कि पूरी क्षमता के साथ अगर कारखाने रन होने लगे तो संभवतः हम लॉस में नहीं जायेंगे और उससे हम को आमदनी हो सकती है, तो पूरी क्षमता के साथ अगर कोई कारखाना चले लेकिन उसमें क्वालिटी खराब हो जैसा कि कहा गया है कि भिलाई के कारखाने से एक बाहर के देश ने रेल की पटरियां मंगाई और उसको उनकी क्वालिटी बहुत खराब मिली इस लिये वे वापस आ गई या आने की संभावना है तो इस प्रकार अगर माल खराब हो तब भी हमारे देश में निश्चित रूप से यह काम बढ़ने वाला है।

इसके अतिरिक्त मैं श्रीमान का ध्यान इस तथ्य की तरफ भी आकर्षित करूंगा कि केवल श्री भूपेश गुप्त जी और श्री चन्द्र शेखर जी के कहने मात्र से कि पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग की तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाय क्या वर्तमान में अर्थशास्त्र के अनुसार और वर्तमान में देश की आर्थिक स्थिति देखते हुए यह संभव नहीं है कि हमें लाभ चाहे पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग से मिले चाहे प्राइवेट अंडरटेकिंग से मिले या किसी से मिले, देश में हमारी अर्थ नीति ऐसी हो कि हम उस दिशा में चलें जिस से हमारे देश को लाभ हो, तो इस नीति पर चलने के आप हमी हैं या नहीं ?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली ग्रहमद : यह तो लाजिमी तौर पर है कि हमारे देश को फायदा होना चाहिये और उस फायदे के लिये हमें क्वालिटी भी इम्प्रूव करनी चाहिये । लेकिन मैं यह बात नहीं मानता कि पब्लिक सेक्टर जाँ चीजें प्रोड्यूस कर रहा है वे क्वालिटी की नहीं हैं । आज एच० एम० टी० जो भी सारी चीजें प्रोड्यूस कर रहा है वे इस किस्म की आला चीजें हैं कि वे बाहर के मुल्कों में इंटरनेशनली कम्पीट कर रही हैं और हमारे पास बाहर से काफी आर्डर आ रहे हैं । जहाँ तक आपने रेल का सवाल किया उस मिनिस्ट्री से मैं डील नहीं करता हूँ । उसका अलग से सवाल दिया जाय तो रटील मिनिस्ट्री जवाब देगी । लेकिन जहाँ तक मेरी इत्तिला है जो हमने स्टील प्रोड्यूस कर के अपने मुल्क से बाहर भेजा है वह काफी अच्छा समझा जाता है और मुल्कों ने काफी उसे लिया है ।

SHRI ABID ALI : Two questions, Sir. First, how much capacity is installed in the various departments in Ranchi, and how much utilised, and, Sir, how much more has been installed, subsequent to the decision about Ranchi, in the private sector? How much quantity has been imported? And will the hon. Minister kindly see the the suggestions made from this side including myself about this capacity non-utilisation and the replies given by his predecessor to what we had been submitting? And, Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly ascertain from the distinguished visitors the nature of discussion in works committees and other party meetings about the unsatisfactory

factory working and bad results achieved in some of the important establishments in Russia ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, it will not be proper for me to say anything about the results of the working of factories in other countries; it will not be proper for me to say anything. Now I can only point out this much that, so far as the HEC is concerned, the maximum capacity for which this unit has been set up is about 85,000 tonnes. And the exact figure to which we are working today, that is not with me just now, and I can place the figure on the Table of the House.

SHRI ABID ALI : Thank you.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : I will not refer to our Soviet guests; I will only refer to our Government and to our Minister here. I would like to know about the policy which he has told this House he has been pursuing, that is, not to import anything which is manufactured here. Since when has this policy been adopted? Is it not a fact that in the last ten or eleven years the smaller people who went to the DGTD with their applications were rejected while the monopolists and the bigger people always managed to get whatever they wanted? What is the difference between the previous policy and the policy which the hon. Minister says he has now adopted and what are the loopholes and other things that he has plugged?

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : All these things do not arise here.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : This arises from the reply given by the hon. Minister. May I get an assurance from the hon. Minister that he will look into all those import licences which these bigger people had managed to get and see wherever any mischief has been played like some sort of a connivance between the monopolists and some officers, such import licences will be scuttled and they are not allowed to import those things?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, we have been strictly pursuing the policy of not allowing the import of any of the items as are being indigenously manufactured in our own country. In fact, I would like to inform the House that at one time we considered the feasibility of cancelling even the contracts that had earlier been entered into. Even that action

has been considered by us and wherever it is possible for us to see that the indigenous manufacturer gets preference that is being done.

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त (उत्तर प्रदेश) : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जब इस हेवी इंजीनियरिंग प्लांट को बड़ा सोफास्टी-केटेड और पूरे स्टील प्लांट का निर्माणकर्ता घोषित किया जाता है तो बोकारो स्टील प्लांट की मशीनरी रूस से क्यों आ रही है और इसमें मेनूफेक्चर क्यों नहीं की जाती ? उसका एक छोटा अंश ही इस प्लांट में मेनूफेक्चर हो रहा है । जगह जगह यह क्लेम किया जा रहा है कि इस प्लांट में सब चीजें बन सकती हैं जो टाटा और बिड़ला को जरूरत है वह भी बन सकती है और जिनकी बोकारो को जरूरत है वे भी बन सकती हैं । तो फिर बोकारो में 10 फीसदी मशीनरी ही क्यों बनाई जा रही है और 90 फीसदी रूस से क्यों आ रही है ?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : बोकारो प्लांट के लिये जिन चीजों की जरूरत है और जो चीजें एच०ई०सी० में बन सकती है वे एच०ई०सी० में बनाई जा रही है और प्रोग्राम हम देख रहे हैं कि और ज्यादा वे कैसे बना सकते हैं ।

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I visited the Ranchi plant quite recently and I found the plant was in a very bad way. May I ask the Minister to answer three short questions? Firstly, there is a lot of politics at the managerial level and the controversy about the installation of the Jawaharlal Nehru statue has impeded production. Is it a fact? Secondly, is it not a fact that there is no active selling organisation for the Heavy Engineering Corporation? Thirdly, the prices of the HEC do not compare favourably with the prices quoted by the private sector. Is it not so ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Again, this question of pricing and all these things involve a serious discussion. But we are always trying to say something against the public undertakings and want to compare them with the private sector undertakings without realising what additional expenditure has to be incurred by the public sector undertaking.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : The point is, why should you penalise the consumer for your inefficiency?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : They are doing many social welfare activities; townships have been built and many other amenities. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: At whose cost ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : . . . are added. All this is added as expenditure of the public sector undertaking and on that basis the pricing is done. This is a matter which we should consider and see whether we can revise the policy so that the public undertakings may be exempted from the expenditure which is incurred on these things. Then surely it will be possible for us to compete with the private sector.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT, 1952

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (in English) of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment) issued under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952:—

- (i) Notification G. S. R. No. 2083, dated the 22nd November, 1968.
- (ii) Notification G. S. R. No. 2084, dated the 22nd November, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2648/68 for (i) and (ii).]

THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1968

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, a copy each of the following Notifications (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Indian Posts