

**SARKAR COMMITTEE REPORT**

\*637. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR:

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Enquiry Committee headed by Shri A. K. Sarkar, has submitted its interim report;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the account books of M/s. Amin Chand Pyare Lal group of industries have been seized?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes. Sir. The Committee has submitted its report.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) On a reference made to the Reserve Bank of India in respect of unit 'Callings' within the purview of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1947, it is understood that the Central Bureau of Investigation have seized some documents of Messrs. Amin Chand Pyarelal group.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: From the newspaper report I find that the former Minister, Mr. C. Subramanian, and Mr. Bhoothalingam have been exonerated in this deal. If so, who are the other officials who were involved in allowing the import of steel without a proper licence?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: It is a very big report and it has been received by the Government only in the first week of this month. It is under scrutiny in the Ministry. As the hon. House is aware, the report will be examined by the Government as a whole and will be placed on the Table of the House along with decision.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: May I know, Sir, how long it will take for the Government to process this interim report and come to certain conclusion? In the meantime, the final report has also to come, after

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. R. Muniswamy.

giving your reaction. May I know what is the amount involved in allowing the steel to be imported, without a valid licence and what is the loss incurred by the Government?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: It is a question of detail relating to what is in the report and I am afraid it will not be proper for me to say anything about it. Regarding time, I can assure this hon. House that we are trying our best to expedite it. It is a huge voluminous report and

got it after one and a half year's scrutiny and examination by the

committee. So, it will take time—a few weeks. By the time this hon. House meets next time, in the next month. I am confident that I will be able to place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has assured this House and we are happy that it will be placed on the Table of the House. The report will be placed along with the Government's decision on the Table of the House when we resume our next Session. May we tell the hon. Minister that this is a serious matter? Steel worth one crore of rupees has been allowed to be imported through all means and ways under these circumstances will the hon. Minister assure this House that, after considering and going through the report, those who are responsible for all this mischief and for allowing the import of steel worth one crore of rupees will be taken to task and proper punishment will be inflicted on such persons who are involved in this matter?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: I am afraid the hon. Member is not appreciative of the seriousness which we also attach to this. We take it as a very serious thing and it is more than one crore of rupees, to which the hon. Member is referring. But I cannot give the details. I would only assure you that Government will give serious consideration and see what action should be taken and everything will come up before this House.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister what are the difficulties which prevent him from placing the Report of the Sarkar Committee straightway on the Table of the House? Government can consider it and come with its decisions later.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: That would be one of the methods and more easy for me, but the point is . . .

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: In view of the interest shown by the House, it should be placed straightway.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: In view of the interest shown by the House, it would be proper and necessary for the Government to come to some conclusions, because the interest of the house will not stop after just getting the Report.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: With the hon. Minister assure this House that really all available evidence as regards Mr. Bhoothalingam and the ex-Minister, Mr. Subramaniam, was placed before the ex-Chief Justice Mr. Sarkar, before he gave his interim Report? \* \* \*

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Mr. Chairman, on a point order,

It is proper to mention a private conversation in this House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you should not. Reference to private conversation may be left out.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Unless the Report comes before the House, we will not be in a position to examine the Report and say whether all possible evidence with the Government was placed before Mr. Sarkar or not. Before the Report is made available to cast such aspersions is nothing but a political game of Mr. Chatterjee.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: I am an assurance that all available evidence was placed before this Committee. This is what I am asking.

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: I have nothing to add.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I know whether Mr. Chatterjee was

\*\*\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

talking to Mr. Sarkar as a lawyer or as a parliamentarian?

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to the fact that the newspapers have published that Mr. Bhoothalingam has been exonerated by this Committee completely? If so, he should confirm or deny what the newspapers have published. Would the Minister send it back to the Public Accounts Committee for a revision of its opinion? An injustice has been done to an officer who lost a very valuable posting and ended his official career under a cloud.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: It is a nature question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

#### MALPRACTICES AND WRONG PROMOTIONS IN CATERING DEPARTMENT

\*638. SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Officers of the Northern Rail Headquarters Office were involved in cases relating to malpractices and wrong promotions in the Catering Department of Delhi Division: and

(b) if so, the number of Officers involved classwise and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH): (a) and (b) 5 Class I Officers and one Class IT Officer of the Headquarters of the Northern Railway are figuring in a case of irregular promotion of an employee of the Catering Department of Delhi Division of the same Railway. The case is at present under consideration of the Central Vigilance Commission.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: These malpractices were detected some three years ago. May I know, Sir, why the officers involved have not been suspended after the fact-finding enquiry is completed, as the question of suspension of the officers has nothing to do with the Central Vigilance Commission?