

programme. To that extent we have imported them, and I have laid information on the Table of the House. When we say luxury or non-essential goods, it means goods which are totally not required for our economy or for our national programme.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether it is a fact that the import licences are more or less monopolised by foreign firms in India?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Hundreds and thousands of people are receiving licences.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Returning to the question relating to the cars, how is it we find some of the Ministers going about only in big cars and very new cars, always new? Do I understand that these cars are bought from the S.T.C. pool or they are cars sold by diplomats or they are obtained otherwise? We should like to know that.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The first of your assumption is correct. Under the limited allotment policy of just a few cars to the dignitaries like Rashtrapati or the Vice-President or the Governors and one for each Cabinet Minister, that is done out of the S.T.C. pool. No direct imports are involved.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I never asked about the Vice-President. About Ministers I have asked.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Cabinet Ministers I have said.

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI: May I know if the Minister could enlighten us whether the exports for the current quarter are expected generally to go up or go down?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We always expect it to go up.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार विदेशी शराब को लगजरी गुड्स में मानती है या नहीं और अगर मानता है तो कितनी विदेशी शराब . . .

श्री मनुभाई शाह : विदेशी शराब जो डिफेंस के लिये बिलकूल लाजमी मानी जाती है, मर्यादित क्वान्टिटी में जरूर लायी जाती है।

श्री राजनारायण : कितनी ? क्वान्टिटी तो बताएं।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : हर एक के फिगर्स एंड हाक नहीं दिये जा सकते कि हर-हर आइटम के बारे में बात आप बोलते जायें।

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister whether cosmetic goods are also allowed to be imported? When the country is not able to pay for food-grains, we find that some expensive cosmetic goods are available in various shops.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The cosmetic goods which are imported are zero. I have been repeatedly stressing that. What happens is this. What India produces also is of such high quality that most of the Members, when they go to the shops, think that they are foreign goods. The second reason is that we are making first-class cosmetics which are popular throughout the world. The second point is—I would like to explain this because this has been exercising the minds of some hon. Members—goods which are not imported under normal licence but clandestinely tried to be smuggled and seized by the Customs are sold in auction. Some of the goods do appear in the window shops of the various markets which make Members perhaps feel that they are imported.

\*604. [The questioner (Shri M. P. Bhargava) was absent. For answer, vide col. 4821 infra.]

IMPORT LICENCES FOR STAINLESS STEEL

\*605. SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Will the Minister of IRON AND STEEL, be pleased to state the number of import licences for stainless steel quotas issued year-wise from 1957 to 1965?

THE MINISTER OF IRON AND STEEL (SHRI T. N. SINGH): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Year of Licensing	Number of Licences issued
1957	116
1958	378
1959	566
1960	850
1961	1519
1962	2459
1963	3099
1964	3470
1965	3177

شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب

فرمائیں گے کہ یہ سال بہ سال جو نمبر بڑھتا گیا ہے - یہاں تک کہ 1100 پر سے زیادہ ایک ہی فرم کی یا ایک ہی فرم کی سہیلی فرم کی ہوں جن کو لائسنس دئے گئے -

†[شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب فرمائیں گے کہ یہ سال بہ سال جو نمبر بڑھتا گیا ہے یہاں تک کہ 1100 پر سے زیادہ ایک ہی فرم کی یا ایک ہی فرم کی سہیلی فرم کی ہوں جن کو لائسنس دئے گئے -

گئی، उसमें 50 से ज्यादा एक ही फर्म की या एक ही फर्म की सहेली फर्म की हैं, जिनको लाइसेन्स दिये गये ? ]

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : इन मुख्तलिफ फर्मों का हाल मुझे मालूम नहीं है। लेकिन इतना बता देना चाहता हूँ कि स्टेनलेस स्टील कैमिकल इन्डस्ट्री और दूसरे उद्योगों के लिये बड़ी जरूरी चीज है और लाजमी है कि जब हमारा औद्योगिक विकास हो रहा है, तो उसमें स्टेनलेस ब्रैन्ड की जरूरत बढ़े।

شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب

فرمائیں گے کہ یہ جو نمبر بڑھتا گیا، کیا اس میں ایک ایسا بھی تھا کرائٹھریا کہ کچھ فرموں کو دیا گیا اور کچھ فرموں کو نہیں دیا گیا - اگر ایسا تھا تو اس میں کیا ریزنگ تھی جن کو دیکھ کر جانچا جاتا تھا کہ ان فرموں کو سٹین لیس سٹیل دینا یا نہیں دینا چاہئے -

†[شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب فرمائیں گے کہ یہ سال بہ سال جو نمبر بڑھتا گیا ہے یہاں تک کہ 1100 پر سے زیادہ ایک ہی فرم کی یا ایک ہی فرم کی سہیلی فرم کی ہوں جن کو لائسنس دئے گئے -

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : मेरा खयाल है कि इसके लिये नियम बने हुए हैं और हर केस में उसकी पाबंदी की गई है। अगर मेम्बर साहब की नज़र में कोई खास मामला हो, तो मुझे बताएंगे, मैं उसको देखूंगा।

شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب

فرمائیں گے کہ کیا کچھ ایسی فرموں کو لائسنس دئے گئے ہوں جو بلیک لسٹ پر تھیں اور جنہوں نے ملک کا کروڑوں روپیہ جو کہ دیہی کا فارن ایکسچینج تھا اسکو انہوں نے کھالا مالا کیا اور جیسے امین چند پھارے لال اور دوسری فرموں کو دیا گیا . . .

†[ श्री अब्दल गनी : क्या वज़ीर साहब फर्मायेंगे कि क्या कुछ ऐसी फर्मों को लाइसेन्स दिये गये हैं जो ब्लैक लिस्ट पर थीं और जिन्होंने मुल्क का करोड़ों रुपया जो कि देश का फारेन एक्सचेंज था, उसको उन्होंने घाला माला किया और जैसे अमीचन्द प्यारेलाल और दूसरी फर्मों को दिया गया . . . ]

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : ब्लैक लिस्ट फर्मों को तो हमारे यहां से मिल ही नहीं सकता, हमारे यहां के कानून के, कायदे के, खिलाफ है। ऐसा मुझे पूरा विश्वास है।

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: We have seen in the market that the stainless steel that is being imported is being manufactured into utensils or other goods, when the foreign exchange is very scarce and valuable to us. May I know from the Minister whether there is any restriction as to the purpose for which stainless steel can be imported and what steps the Minister is taking to see that we become self-sufficient in stainless steel?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: Stainless steel is being allowed for essential purposes only, namely, with regard to chemical and surgical industries for making surgical instruments, etc., which are really very important. As regards its manufacture, Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant is going to manufacture stainless steel and some others have also been

licensed. Whether its production will be in the near future, I cannot say, but we shall succeed in course of time.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: What about import for preparation of utensils?

(No reply)

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is the hon. Minister aware that the persons who have secured quotas from the Government have been selling their quotas instead of manufacturing, as promised by them? They have been selling their quotas of stainless steel, and the rate is 20 to 25 times more, and that stainless steel is being used for the manufacture of utensils and those utensils come in the market. Is the Government aware of it and, if so, what action is being taken by the Government?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I have scanty information here in regard to the misuse of 18 gauge steel sheets. But the minimum thickness of sheets which we allow to be imported is not less than 18 gauges. The imports are of 18 gauge and above thickness. Even then some people divert them to other uses. And that may be happening. Beyond that, I cannot say except that we are taking all possible steps to see that such misuse is checked. At the same time some stainless steel sheets do come under the barter scheme. The STC has been importing it in the past. But beyond that, I do not think they are importing stainless steel of utensil grades in any appreciable quantity.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Is the hon. Minister aware that the stainless steel quota which was given to the manufacturers of utensils was diverted to the factory owners and still continues to be enjoyed by them?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: No, no. We are not giving any quota to stainless steel utensil manufacturers because the 20 gauge sheet is not imported. It is not being allowed to be imported, and that is the gauge which is used for utensil purposes. There may be some diversion of 18 gauge for utensil

making purposes. That is another matter. But we are not allowing any such imports.

SHRI M. S. OBEROI: May I ask the hon. Minister for how much licences for stainless steel were issued during last year?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I do not have the information here with me about every year's licences. The numbers are given but the value is not given.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Minister admits that stainless steel imported for industrial purposes is diverted. He says, it must be diverted; otherwise, there will be no utensils of stainless steel available. But they are available in plenty in the market. So, they are diverted. May I know whether, in view of this diversion, he will re-evaluate the needs of the various manufacturers and cut down their import quotas of stainless steel so that this is utilised only for industrial purposes, that it is imported only for that and not for utensil making?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: The assumption made by the Hon. Member is rather not correct. What has been happening is that till 1957, there was no restriction on import of this material. After that, some steel was . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Nine years have elapsed.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: In 1962, it was considered necessary to impose further restrictions on the import of stainless steel items for the utensil making industry. The present policy permits import of stainless steel only for important industries other than the utensil making industry and too is being limited to gauge 18 and higher thickness. That is the position. What I said was that gauge 18 is liable to be diverted for utensils and it has perhaps been happening. And then again, there is also some import under what are called import entitlements.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if the total quantity imported every year is imported by the private parties or if a certain part or proportion of the total yearly import is on behalf of the State or the State Corporations also? If so, if the State undertakings import, what is the basis on which it is distributed to the States?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: It is true that the imports of stainless steel are made in a large number of cases by this organisation, the State Trading Corporation, and others. I cannot give the exact figures.

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Is the hon. Minister not aware that crockery of stainless steel is available in large quantities and those who manufacture this crockery of stainless steel can be asked wherefrom they get this stainless steel?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I have already stated that some steel is imported under what is called import entitlements. That is also one of the reasons. The hon. Member's suspicion is perhaps correct. I agree with him that there has been some misuse.

#### MMTC CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC SECTOR STEEL PLANTS

\*606. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC has entered into an agreement with the three public sector steel plants for supply of iron and manganese ores during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAJ SHAH): (a) and (b) Discussions at Senior Officers' levels between MMTC and HSL are in progress, and satisfactory results are expected in a short time.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the representatives of the small mine-