

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is not at all the normal practice. It is quite clear as to which country you are actually importing from and the country of origin of the commodity imported. And on that basis, the licence is issued in order to circumvent it indirectly through intermediate countries. Is it fair that in this particular case there has been a fraud committed on the particular regulation with regard to import of articles? Yugoslavia may have been used by certain other agencies there in West Germany and in our country in order to import something which would not have been otherwise normally imported from particular countries, apart from the question of foreign exchange and other things involved in the matter.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: This is a case which relates to 1961.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It does not matter.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Even in that matter, no foreign exchange was involved from the hard currency area.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is how it came . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*791. [*The questioner Shri Niranjan Singh was absent. For answer vide col 5/89 infra.*]

fSuppLV OF MAIZE TO FACTORIES

•696. SHRI Y. A. REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maize is being supplied at subsidized rates to all the factories that produce corn products in India; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to help farmers to grow more maize by giving subsidies and extend the area of maize growing land?

†Transferred from the 20th September, 1965.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a). No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration to give subsidies to farmers. But to achieve increased production of maize, Government have taken several measures like production and marketing of seeds of hybrid maize and grant of short term loans to growers.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that some time ago a large number of textile mills in the country were affected due to shortage of maize starch, with the result that production fell, it went down? May I know from the hon. Minister whether the necessary arrangements for the supply of maize has now been fully assured to the textile industry of this country?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I am not aware of those particular textile industries complained of because it is my other colleague who deals with the textile industry. But I can say that maize starch production is being stepped up and has been going up. I see no reason for any shortage of it.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: The other Minister is also, fortunately, sitting. Will you ask him to look into the question?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: Mr. Manu-bhai Shah is not here.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether Government are aware that because of the paucity of maize for the production of starch, tapioca which is one of the staple food items of the people of Kerala is being diverted for the production of starch and that is aggravating the food situation in Kerala? What steps do Government propose to take to alleviate the situation?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I would **not** accept that position, Sir. There is a

demand from Kerala itself that tapioca should be utilised for developing the starch industry in that State and many small and medium, units have come up and I think they should be encouraged.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: May I know whether this problem was discussed with the Minister of Agriculture in order to produce more maize in this country?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: The Ministry of Agriculture had been fully associated. And maize is being produced in larger quantities.

*792. [The questioner {Shri L. N. Dos} was absent. For answer vide col. 5109-90 infra.]

MECHANISATION IN RAILWAY ACCOUNTS OFFICES AND STAFF AFFECTED THEREBY

*793. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Accounts and Statistical offices on the Indian Railways where mechanisation and simplification methods were introduced up-till now;

(b) the number of employees who were rendered surplus or displaced due to this rationalisation;

(c) whether this policy is in conformity with the principle of 'Rationalisation without Tears' agreed to at the 15th Indian Labour Conference as well as the understanding given to the All India Railwaymen's Federation on the 23rd July, 1964, to the effect that there will be no reduction in higher grades; and

(d) if not, what steps were contemplated to restore the promotion prospects of the affected staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHOG SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Machines have been in use for several decades for statistical compilations on all Indian Zonal Railways except the Northeast Frontier Railway. Mechanised methods have now been applied to both Statistical and Accounts work on all the Indian Zonal Railways, including the Northeast Frontier Railway from September 1964. Certain procedural simplifications have been introduced both in the Traffic Accounts and the General Accounts Branches of Railways.

(b) Out of a total of over 29,000 clerical staff of the Accounts Department in employment on 31st March 1964, 708 staff have so far been declared surplus in their old posts. Of them only 42 were transferred to other stations for absorption, and the rest were absorbed in the same station.

(c) The mechanisation and simplification of work in the Accounts and Statistical Offices on Railways for streamlining office procedure and reducing documentation work at stations is not of the nature of the rationalisation envisaged in the Indian Labour Conference proceedings. The basic principle that there should be no retrenchment or loss of earnings has, however, been observed.

The understanding given by the Railway Board to the All Indian Railwaymen's Federation on 23rd July 1963 (and not 1964 as stated in the Question), that there would be no retrenchment of staff and that any contraction in the number of Clerks Grade II would eventually not mean proportionately less posts in higher grades, than at present, has been fully honoured.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Sir, according to merit, after the introduction of mechanisation, the situation is calm and beautiful. But may I know whether any representation regarding the hardships caused to the staff because of this mechanisation has been received from the staff work-