

में मानस-चित्त प्रस्तुत करने के लिए परम्परागत तथा अपरम्परागत दोनों बाजारों में गहन सम्बर्धन करने का विचार है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Lower export in 1963-64 was due to lower production in India resulting from adverse weather conditions during the two consecutive years viz., 1962 and 1963 which reduced the availability of tea. Also the 10-12 day closure of tea auctions and exports of tea during January, 1964 due to civil disturbances lost us about Rs. 10 to 12 crores worth of tea exports.

(b) A dynamic and vigorous campaign of foreign promotion is being successfully implemented by the Tea Board to increase tea exports and to create new markets. Intensive promotion to project the image of Indian tea is proposed to be carried out in both traditional and non-traditional markets.]

FIRM FOR MANUFACTURE OF CONTRACEPTIVES

576. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the 'Patriot' dated the 3rd December, 1964 to the effect that a firm for the manufacture of contraceptives, which is likely to go into production in March, 1965, is owned by a relative of a Union Minister;

(b) if so, what is the veracity of the news; and

(c) whether the firm is on the approved list of suppliers to Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI T. N. SINGH): (a) to (c)

†[] English translation.

On receiving notice of this Question, I have seen the news item referred to. I do not accept the insinuations contained in the news as published. It is a fact, however, that some relations of a Central Minister, who are not dependent on him, have a minority interest in a company that is going to produce contraceptives. The products manufactured by the company, it is understood, are being placed on the list of approved contraceptives.

WORKING GROUP ON HANDLOOM

467. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the Working Group on Handloom; and

(b) whether any of them have been accepted in the formulation of the Fourth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) A statement containing the recommendations is attached. [See Appendix L, Annexure No. 37].

(b) The recommendations would be taken into consideration at the time of finalisation of the Fourth Five Year Plan targets for the Handloom Industry.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ARREST OF SEVEN PERSONS IN DELHI UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, 1923

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): May I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported arrest of seven persons in Delhi under the Official Secrets Act, 1923, alleged to be the members of a spy ring operating in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): Sir, I can understand the anxiety of Members over what has been reported in the papers as the operation of a spy ring in the country. All that I can say at the present stage of investigation is that seven persons have been arrested under section 3 of the Official Secrets Act as there were reasonable grounds to believe that they had passed on information bearing on secret matters to an officer of a diplomatic mission in Delhi. All the available clues and material are being closely examined with a view to ascertaining the full ramifications of this case. It is necessary in the public interest including proper investigation of the case that no further information should be made public at this stage. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Members not to press me to disclose more details.

This is a serious and delicate case and I do not wish to underestimate its implications. At the same time I would like the House to take the fact of its detection as evidence of the continuous and painstaking vigilance being exercised over matters relating to national security. I can give an assurance that this vigilance will continue to be exercised. Apart from vigorous investigation in progress, appropriate diplomatic action has also been taken.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Sir, while agreeing with the anxiety of the hon. Minister not to press this point any further, and congratulating the C.B.I. on the good work done in the detection of this spy ring, I would like to seek certain clarifications. The first clarification I seek is whether all the members of the spy ring have been arrested, or any further arrests are expected. The second point is that the Government will take full precautions . . .

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): May I submit that questions may not be put.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhargava, I think, in view of the statement made by the Minister, that it is in the fitness of things not to press this matter any further.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Sir, I only want certain assurances on some very basic issues. The second point is that the Government will take all necessary action if any Government servants and V.I.Ps. are involved in this spy ring.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: I am thankful to Shri Vajpayee for requesting the sponsor of this question not to put further questions. Investigation is going on. If it is necessary to arrest or take action against anybody else, whosoever he may be, it will be done.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, I do not want to seek any clarification. I am sure that Government will keep in mind the case of Colonel Bhattacharya when they will deal with these species and, if necessary, a special court will be constituted to try them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I pass on to the next item. Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT (1963-64) AND ACCOUNTS OF THE MANGANESE ORE (INDIA) LTD., NAGPUR AND OTHER PAPERS.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the—

- (i) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur,