

tained in Section 137 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the importance of the question concerning evasion of income-tax and all that, the Ministry will take steps to find out the real truth in the matter and make the company pay it?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: We have enquired thoroughly into the matter and I would like to point out to the House that the United Press Association has been duly assessed and the assessment has been certified by the Commissioner of Income-tax. The total tax determined is Rs. 1,15,094. That is the total tax that is going to be collected from the firm. The firm is now defunct as it was originally. It has been taken over by the United Press International which is in existence today. The United Press International have shown their willingness to furnish this amount.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I thought that you had passed over this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with Question No. 182. If you have any supplementaries, you may put them. Next question.

*183. [*The questioner (Shri Bairagi Dwibedy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1565 infra.*]

EXPORT OF BANANAS AND CASHEW-NUTS TO RUSSIA

*184. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great demand from Russia for bananas and cashew-nuts produced in Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no adequate supply of these commodities for export to that country; and

(c) if so what steps Government propose to take to increase production so that necessary quantity can be exported to Russia?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) :

(a) There is always a moderate demand.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the statement of the Trade Representative of Russia Mr. N. G. Meohulin, who has stated that there is a great demand for cashew-nuts and bananas which are grown in Maharashtra and, if so, which version we are to accept—the version of the Trade Representative of Russia who wants more of these commodities from this country or the statement of the hon. Minister here? If the Trade Representative has said that he wants to import more of these commodities, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps he would take to export these commodities in large quantities and to earn greater foreign exchange?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I do not actually know the statement to which the hon. Member has referred, but he has obviously to take my statement as the right one. It was with a great amount of pressure and persuasion that the Soviet Union agreed to import 4,000 tons of bananas and that too after seven months of very closely argued discussions and negotiations. Now, a contract has been signed by the Maharashtra Co-operative Society for the export of 4,000 tons of bananas which will commence from July this year. After it is completed, the Soviet Union has promised to reconsider the matter to buy some more bananas. We are also trying to export bananas from different parts of India, including Maharashtra. As far as cashew-nuts are concerned, we are exporting them at top speed and

Russia, along with other countries, is also buying a moderate quantity.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know whether the local co-operative societies or the local cultivators are allowed to export directly or whether they have to export it through the State Trading Corporation?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Directly.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if any deputation of banana growers is likely to go to Russia to find out the demand and requirements of Russia in this connection?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We know the demand of the Soviet Union in this matter, but a delegation headed by and assisted by the representatives of three or four co-operative growers and one or two trade experts, is going to Western Europe for securing markets for our bananas.

SHRI N. C. KASLTWAL: May I know if it is a fact that there has been a shortfall in the production of cashew-nuts in East Africa from where large quantities were imported into India for the purpose of processing and re-exporting and, if so, whether they have affected our exports so far as cashew-nuts are concerned?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I think it is true that in Tanganyika and the Portuguese colony of Mozambique, which were our principal suppliers, there had been a failure of crop. But looking into our own internal production plus imports, there is no likelihood of any great scarcity—though at the stage we wanted to step up the exports considerably. That might get affected. But more than the normal exports will take place.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: It is well known that Kerala is famous both for bananas and cashew-nuts. May I know, Sir, if in the export promotion campaign in respect of the U.S.S.R. the surplus products of this State are also taken into consideration?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir. Kerala is much interested like other States. We have proposed to them that, if possible, their Plantation Corporation in the State Sector should undertake to grow, on an intensive basis, bananas of a special type which Kerala is capable of producing for export purposes.

AMOUNT COLLECTED BY L.I.C. BY THE

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र में जहाँ बनाना पैदा होता है, वहाँ से वह ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट हो तो फिर वहाँ पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए शासन द्वारा कोई कार्यवाही की जा रही है; क्योंकि बाजार में बनाना की कीमत बढ़ गई है।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : हिन्दुस्तान का, दुनिया में बनाना पैदा करने में, तीसरा स्थान है। हमारे यहाँ सालाना २० तथा २१ लाख टन बनाना पैदा होता है। लेकिन हमारी नीति यह है कि इसकी क्वालिटी अच्छी रखी जाये, ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा बनाना बाहर भेजा जा सके। इसके साथ ही हमें यह भी खयाल करना है कि हमारे यहाँ जो बनाना की इण्टरनल प्राइस है वह वर्ल्ड मार्केट में मेल नहीं खाती है, जिसे हमें हल करना है, ताकि हम बनाना ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट कर सकें।

MICTION OF SHRI RAM RATAN GUPTA'S PROPERTIES

♦185. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the speech of the Deputy Minister of Finance during the discussion on the Third Evaluation Report of the Life Insurance Corporation of India in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1963 and state:

(a) the reasons for which all the 24 properties belonging to Shri Ram Ratan Gupta of Kanpur were not put to auction against the LIC claim of Rs. 17 lakhs; and

(b) how much amount has been collected by the life Insurance Corporation against Shri Ram Ratan Gupta's properties auctioned on the 30th April, 1963?