

facture of vanaspati during 1961-62 and 1962-63?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): Cotton seed oil is used in the manufacture of vanaspati and the consumption on this account during 1961-62 and 1962-63 was 27,600 and 24,900 tonnes respectively. In terms of cotton seed, that would mean a quantity roughly eight times those figures.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know why cotton seed oil is preferred to groundnut oil? What are the reasons for it?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: We recommend the use of cotton seed oil because it is cheaper for one thing; and that would release a certain amount of groundnut oil for export.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know of any factory which uses only cotton seed oil for the production of vanaspati? If so, which are those factories?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, they cannot use more than 15 per cent; otherwise the vanaspati becomes off colour.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Is the cotton cake available for cattle feed affected by this use of cotton seed oil for making vanaspati?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, cotton cakes are available for cattle feed.

CONDITIONS FOR TRAVEL ABROAD FOR ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

*403. **DR. JAWAHARLAL ROHATGI:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the conditions under which Indian nationals are permitted to travel abroad and are granted foreign exchange for the purpose of attending international conferences in other countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): The normal

criterion of essentiality and usefulness is always kept in view in clearing the passages or releasing foreign exchange to persons going abroad for various approved purposes including attendance at international conferences abroad.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the criterion is the same for officials and for non-officials, and for countries with different political systems?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Yes, Sir. The criterion is the same.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is it a fact that before allowing the P. Form the applications are forwarded to the Ministry of External Affairs and they are granted only when that Ministry gives the O.K.?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: No, Sir. That is not the usual procedure. But in certain matters we do refer cases to the Ministry of External Affairs when the mission going abroad is of a political nature.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I wrote letters to the former Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, and he clearly in his reply has stated in his letter that the P. Form permission would be given to all those who can produce an invitation showing that no foreign exchange would be involved. I want to know whether this assurance that was given in writing—I can produce the letter—is being observed, and, if so, why the application for foreign travel from a Member of Parliament—Dr. Ranen Sen of the other House—was not sanctioned although he produced the requisite invitation showing that no foreign exchange whatsoever was involved, as he was invited by a trade union organisation? What are the reasons and why is this P. Form issue used again as a second Passport Department, to go into the question even in the case of the holders of passports?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Well, I do not accept the last assumption of the hon. Member. But in my reply to the original question I have already stated that the normal criterion of essentiality and usefulness is always kept in view. Therefore discretion is given to the Government to see whether the purpose of going abroad is useful and essential for the country's benefit, and in such cases clearance is given. But we do keep in mind that we do not allow those enjoying individual hospitality. What used to happen in the past was this. Many used to go abroad without taking any foreign exchange and they exchanged the compensatory foreign exchange that they used to get there. Therefore, we very much discouraged the enjoyment of individual hospitality.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, that is not a reply to my question. I want a clear answer. I have the assurance in the letter which I shall bring tomorrow and show to you, Sir. Hon. Members are aware that when this measure was introduced it was clearly stated by the Finance Minister himself, after consultation with the Reserve Bank, of which I have got documentary proof, that so long as the invitation showed that it would not mean any foreign exchange expenditure on the part of India, as far as this Department was concerned, the sanction would be made for the travel. So I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that recently a case occurred with regard to a former Chief Minister of Kerala? When he applied holding a valid passport for travel to the Soviet Union, the P. Form was not sanctioned, despite the fact that he produced the invitation from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and only after a month it was sanctioned and other grounds were raised.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Should I reply to this question? I have already stated that the criterion

of essentiality and usefulness is always kept in view. Probably that case did not come under this category.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then what else? We want to know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. One at a time, please.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether there is no restriction during the emergency on foreign travels, even to attend international conferences?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: We do exercise restraint and it is always our effort to reduce delegations or individuals going abroad, to the minimum.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Will the Government take care to see that dangerous elements, dangerous anti-social elements, are not allowed to go out of this country even if they manage to get passports by this way and that way?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This way and that way?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Have you anything to say?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: I do not reply to that question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, it is a matter of public policy. This P. Form was introduced and we discussed this matter earlier and it was introduced to save foreign exchange. It is not to be a passport department in the Ministry of Finance. But these two letters of the Finance Minister made it absolutely clear that the intention was that where no foreign exchange was involved, it should be allowed. Where it is stated that it will be a second passport department in the country, after the passport had been sanctioned, to deal with the question whether one should travel abroad or not under cover of the so-

called P. Form? Why is it not revoked now? Is it not a fact that some Ambassadors have demanded this because it creates needless complications and does not save foreign exchange either?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: No passport department is created in the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, this is a pertinent question that the hon. Member has put. The Ministry of External Affairs comes into the picture when granting passport. But once the passport has been granted, why should not the P. Form be given?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: Sir, I have given the criterion for giving the clearance. But the passport is a kind of permanent thing, in the sense that once it is given it is maintained over a certain duration of time. So in sending these political missions we certainly are guided by the advice of the External Affairs Ministry.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: I can understand the External Affairs Ministry coming in. But there are cases in which the External Affairs Ministry has given the passport and yet the P. Form is withheld. Why should this happen?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: The External Affairs Ministry gives the passport and it is for a certain duration of time. While the passport holder may be holding that passport for a certain period of time, his going abroad may be a political question which we have to refer to that Ministry.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: She has played into our hands. The question will have to be discussed, not a financial question but . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The assurance, it seems, was as far as their department was concerned but there are other departments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, Sir, this is a matter for the External Affairs Minister and, as Mr. Bajpayee has said, let the External Affairs Ministry consider whether one should be given a passport or not. The P. form was introduced not with the emergency in view but with a view to saving foreign exchange. Does she know that a person who got a passport after having had an invitation went to the Ministry of Finance for P. form clearance and then, on second thoughts, it was decided to hold this up? How could there be this thing? We must know where we stand. Has this work been split up between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of External Affairs? Mrs. Tarkeshwari should throw some light on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think any fruitful questions can be put.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Since you have not allowed any question, tomorrow I shall bring you the letters of the Finance Minister. You consider that and allow, if you think, half an hour's discussion on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No useful purpose can be served by putting questions now because she says that the suitability and the desirability of the thing has to be considered and you say it should not be considered.

FOREIGN TOUR OF MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

*404. { **SHRI S. C. DEB†:**
 SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of INTERNATIONAL TRADE be pleased to state his impressions on his recent tour to some foreign countries and the broad outcome of the tour in relation to export promotion?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. C. Deb.