

this question, what would happen to those Members from Kerala who are in the Rajya Sabha and who are retiring next year and who cannot be re-elected because there is no Vidhan Sabha functioning in Kerala?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: It does not arise out of this question.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Has the attention of the hon. Deputy Minister been drawn to a statement made in Lucknow on the 12th October by the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Sundaram, that in the coming general elections there is a proposal that no independent candidates would be allowed to stand? Is it so?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: It is not a correct statement. I got it verified from the Chief Election Commissioner and he said that it was not a correct statement, as was reported in the press.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Will you please state what is the correct statement then?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: The statement is not correct.

SHRI BIREN ROY: He said that it is not a correct statement, but what is the correct statement of what he said?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will have to find out. He just said that it is wrong.

SHRI BIREN ROY: He has just now said that he has been told that it is not a correct statement. Then, what is the correct statement or what is incorrect about it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Probably he will have to find out.

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: There was a separate question tabled already and I gave my reply.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Has the attention of the hon. Deputy Minister been drawn to a news item which appeared in all the papers, in all the

national papers, which said that senior Congress members were suggesting to the Prime Minister that the elections should be advanced? Has any pressure been brought on him by his senior colleagues?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Member and the House to the statement made by the Prime Minister that there is no intention to change the election time-table. He has said so.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: May I know from the hon. Minister who was the father of that wonderful idea of holding elections one year earlier?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It seems to have had many fathers.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. Minister has said that the general elections will be held as scheduled. The implication is that all those who seek to contest in the general elections on the dates fixed will be allowed to do so. In that context the Chief Election Commissioner asked: What useful purpose will be served by the election of independents to Parliament and the State Legislatures? May I ask him whether that is the view of the Government?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: No, Sir.

SHRI BIREN ROY: It is a matter for privilege . . .

CONTRACT FOR MANUFACTURE OF CHARKHAS

*222. { SHRIMATI TARA RAM-
CHANDRA SATHE†:
SHRIMATI LALITHA
(RAJAGOPALAN):

Will the Minister of SOCIAL SECURITY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Khadi and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Sathe.

Village Industries Commission has entered into a contract with the Text Tools in Coimbatore for the manufacture of charkhas; and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): No, Sir. The contract is yet to be finalised.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: Is there any import licence issued to the Text Tools for importing some materials required for the manufacture of the charkhas?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: No, not to my knowledge.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Deputy Minister said that the contract has not been finalised. That means that it is subject to negotiations. May I ask the Minister to give us some details about the total cost of production of the charkhas by Text Tools of Coimbatore?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: The Text Tools were given an order to produce 12,000 Ambar charkhas.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR. Mr Chairman, may I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Report published in September, 1964 and to the fact that to this date it has not been placed on the Table of the House? This is the Report of the Rao Committee. In June 1964 the Commission told the Committee that they were producing these charkhas with the collaboration of Text Tools. Also, the Committee made certain remarks about the Ambar charkha and the charkha programme, i.e., not even a single target has been fulfilled by the Commission. May I know what steps were taken to stop the grants to the Commission, in view of the utter failure of the Commission to introduce modern charkhas?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I want notice.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: This Report was submitted to the Government in September, 1964. To this date the Government has not placed this Report before the House and it under their consideration for the last one year. Are we to understand that the Minister has not gone through this Report, which is in my hands now? What is happening to this Report and the recommendations therein?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not able to say. He will have to go through it again.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: May I know how far this is compatible, i.e., manufacture Ambar charkhas or an ordinary charkha in a centralised place and then distributing it throughout the country. It is against the very idea of village Industries. If you cannot make Ambar charkha in the villages in different parts of the country and if you produce it in a certain place and then send it by rail to other places—is it not going against the very concept of cottage and village industries. And does it not add to the cost?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: It is a modified Ambar charkha. It has six spindles. It can give more output to the worker who works on this Ambar charkha. It is only the Text Tools of Coimbatore which are capable of producing it.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: May I bring to the notice of the Government that here I have got the issue of 'Jagrati', which is run by the Khadi and Gram Udyog Commission? It is dated the 12th August, 1965 and it says:

शुरू शुरू में कमीशन ने टेक्स-टूल्स को ऑर्डर दिया कि वह १२,००० चरखे प्रदान करें ।

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Twelve thousand have been ordered to be produced. Some models which were produced were tested. Some defects were discovered and they were asked to remove the defects.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, may I draw your attention to this and also ask your guidance as to how to deal with the Government and this Department? Here is the Report which says that in 1962-63 the target was 60,000 Ambar charkhas and budget provision was made for 60,000, but not even a single one was introduced. In 1963-64 the target was 60,000. Again budget provisions were made for one lakh charkhas, but not a single one was introduced. Should the House take it that the Government grants money to this Commission without caring for their interests and without any financial propriety?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is an important question, but you should put that question separately and you will get a satisfactory reply.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that all the Ambar charkhas are being made in different parts of the country and the contract or the experimental contract, as I may put it, given to the Text Tools is only for 1,000 and after they have experimented with them, orders will be given? Is it not a fact also that if the Text Tools contract proves successful, then charkhas of that type will be made all over the country in different factories?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Like a pilot project, 12,000 charkhas are sought to be manufactured and if they are useful, more will be produced.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister whether he is aware that there is something like a Rao Committee Report concerning one of the Depart-

ments of his Ministry and whether he has tried to ascertain facts after receipt of this question or he is simply going by the briefs given to him by the officials?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Briefs are prepared by the officials and all information is there.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I should like to ask whether the Minister is proposing to lay a copy of this report, which was published in September 1964, on the Table of the House and give the House an opportunity to discuss it.

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: May I submit that if it is not already circulated it will certainly be placed on the Table of the House and we shall certainly seek an opportunity of discussing it if the House requires it.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: This Text Tools charkha, if I am right, is manufactured from steel. Is it possible to produce this charkha in different parts of the country when it is produced with the help of a big machinery in Text Tools, Coimbatore?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: It is too early to say whether this type of charkha could be produced all over the country. Only 12,000 charkhas are intended to be produced by Text Tools in Coimbatore. We shall see later if they could be produced elsewhere.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Minister will consider the advisability of advising the Commission not to patronise large-scale industries because this Commission is meant and subsidised for promoting village industries?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I am sorry to find that there is a wrong impression going round in this House that there is an element of patronage involved. The Text Tools of Coimbatore have come forward to do this,

and I do not think they are going to make a profit out of this.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: Is it the view of the Government that for a pilot project 10,000 or 1,000 charkhas are to be manufactured first before they can find out the feasibility and utility of those charkhas?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Regarding its feasibility, only slight defects were found and they are being rectified. Twelve thousand is not a huge number for a vast country like India.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): May I know from the hon. Minister the weight and price of this charkha?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: The costing is being examined.

POOL PRICE OF FERTILIZER

*223. SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there was any reduction in the pool price of fertilizer supplied to agriculturists in the years 1963-64 and 1964-65?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): During 1963-64 the Pool price of Urea was reduced from Rs. 670 to Rs. 570 per metric tonne with effect from 1st January, 1964. Price of Ammonium Phosphate (Grade 20-20-0) was changed from "Rs. 565.90 P. freight to pay" to "Rs. 565.00 P. and freight paid to rail-head destination" per metric tonne. No reduction was made in the Pool prices of fertilizers during 1964-65.

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY: May I know whether Government is making a huge profit over the distribution of fertilizers and, if so, whether the profits will be paid back to the consumers by way of still further reduction of prices?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Some profits were made by them. But of late the prices of fertilizers even in the foreign markets have increased considerably, and now they are not making any great profit. In fact we are having a loss.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: It will be agreed that the price of fertilizer is not to be linked up with the cost price but it is meant to encourage agricultural production. May I ask the Minister if he knows how much profit was made in the distribution made last year and also if, in view of the fact that profit is not the main object, the profit will be given up and mopped up in favour of the consumer?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is true that the price of imported fertilizer is less than the price of fertilizer produced indigenously, and it is with the object of having a uniform price of the fertilizer throughout the country that the imported and the indigenous fertilizers are pooled together and distribution is made on a uniform basis. As I said, some profits were made earlier, but now in view of the increase in world prices of fertilizers the profits are not there.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I may add that it is true that during the previous years large profits were made. For example, in 1962-63 it was found about Rs. 8 crores. In 1963-64 Rs. 5 crores. But in 1964-65 provisionally it is only Rs. 40 lakhs. Even that is problematical because towards the end of the year the prices had further gone up with regard to indigenous production and there was a reduction in the import also. Therefore, even this Rs. 40 lakhs is problematical. Now we are going towards a price where there will not be much of a profit.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :
 क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे, जैसा कि एक बार
 कर्नल जैदी साहब ने अपने वक्तव्य में बताया
 था और फूड एंड एग्रीकल्चरल आर्गनाइजेशन