

GOAN INDUSTRIALISTS MEETING WITH
PRIME MINISTER

*507. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of businessmen and industrialists from Goa met him in July, 1962; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation presented a memorandum urging, *inter alia*, for (i) implementation of the Import Policy for January-March, 1962, (ii) reduction of the number of items the import of which is prohibited, and (iii) release of parcels which have already arrived in Goa. These matters are under Government's consideration.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know whether a promise was made to the business and industrial community of Goa that a certain amount would be placed at their disposal for the import of certain items which was later on scaled down?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: In view of the fact that import has been cut to the bone, and rightly so, because we have a shortage of foreign exchange, what does the Government propose to do for the business and industrial community of Goa so that they may be shifted from business or industry to other avocations?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The Chamber of Commerce made certain representations and they raised certain issues. These were considered by the Government of Goa and in view of the shortage of foreign exchange, certain concessions were made.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is there any proposal for a Kanpur industrialist to enter that field of operations?

(No reply)

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: How long will it take for Government to arrive at a decision?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Certain things were decided regarding additional licence in respect of certain banned items to the satisfaction of the Chamber of Commerce.

I.S.D., LONDON, AND I.S.M., WASHINGTON

*508. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any changes are contemplated in the organisational set up of the India Supply Mission at Washington and the India Stores Department, London; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI JAGANATH RAO): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Reorganisation of work relating to Overseas Purchase

Secretary of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply was deputed in September/October, 1961 to undertake a detailed examination of the two Overseas Purchase organisations, namely, India Store Department, London and India Supply Mission, Washington and to make recommendations on the practicability of transferring the work of these Missions to the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi. After a detailed 'on the spot' study, the Secretary submitted his report in February, 1962, containing recommendations relating to (a) simplification and

streamlining of purchase and inspection procedures followed by India Store Department, London, (b) transfer of certain items of work from both India Store Department, London and India Supply Mission, Washington to Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals and (c) appointment of freight forwarders to India Store Department, London. A copy of this report was circulated in April, 1962 to the members of Rajya Sabha. All the recommendations relating to the simplification and streamlining of procedures for purchase and inspection have been accepted and consequential adjustment of staff has, to a great extent, been effected.

The procurement of plant and machinery required for important Projects included in the Plan, has been transferred from both Missions to the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals. In addition, a few other items will also be procured from India.

It has been decided to appoint a suitable firm of U.K. as Freight Forwarders to the India Store Department, London. They will not receive any remuneration from India Store Department for handling shipping and forwarding work but will retain the usual brokerage payable by the members of the Conference Lines to Shipping and Forwarding agents in respect of cargoes booked from ports in North Europe. The formal agreement will be entered into by the India Store Department, London, with the firm shortly. It is hoped that the bulk of the staff at present employed in the shipping section of India Store Department, London will be dispensed with in about six months and this will result in a further saving of £50,000 per annum.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: It appears from the statement that the recommendation regarding the simplification and streamlining of purchase and inspection procedures followed by the India Stores Department has been accepted. May I know the amount of

saving in foreign exchange that is expected out of this streamlining?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: It is of the order of £50,000 a year.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know the quantity of machinery purchased after this simplification and streamlining of procedure?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: It is not possible for me to say off-hand the value of the machinery that has been purchased. If a separate question is tabled, I may be able to supply the answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Quite a lot of money has been spent for running the India Supply Mission and the India Stores Department and we were given to understand once by the Minister that the matter would be investigated to find out whether certain officers were needed and so on. May I know whether that investigation has been completed and, if so, with what results and what is the economy that has been effected?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: The investigation was completed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply who went to London and Washington to examine the working of these two Missions thoroughly and submitted a report and a copy of this report was circulated to all the Members of this House in April, 1962.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We pointed out on an earlier occasion that whereas India today is exporting textiles to the United Kingdom, we have in the I.S.D., London, officers who are experts in exporting textiles from the United Kingdom to India. May I know whether these officers still continue to draw high salaries?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: That would not be correct. The duties and functions of the Director General of Supplies and Disposals are to cater to the indents of the indenting Ministries. I am talking from memory,

Sir. I think we purchase goods worth about four hundred crores of rupees a year through this department, about one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and thirty crores of rupees worth from America, about twenty-five to thirty crores of rupees worth from the United Kingdom and the rest from India. Some savings have already been made and my Secretary, who is now the Lieutenant Governor of Goa, went to Washington and London last year. Certain new appointments had to be made in Washington but those appointments have not been made and in London certain reductions have already been made. When we enter into arrangements with the shipping agents on the lines of what is prevailing in America, further reductions will be made and we will be able to save to the extent of one lakh pounds a year.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister said "my Secretary". I should like to know whether he meant his Private Secretary or the Secretary of the Ministry.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I am sorry, the Secretary of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: When Government employ a big staff and there is such a competent department to handle the purchases that are made, how is it that officers or non-officials connected with State Governments are allowed to go abroad to negotiate purchases of plant and machinery required for projects in those States?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: There are two aspects of the matter, one is the permanent staff in Washington and London and the other is the indenting Ministries. For example, the Ministries of Railways and Defence want something special for their own purpose. Therefore, generally when such big purchases are made, when there are contracts worth crores of rupees, at that time the indenting Ministry also sends its representatives so that the right type of material is purchased and there is no

difficulty in its delivery later on according to schedule.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Do I take it that the officers of the State Governments go along with the officers of the Ministry or is it that the officers of the State Governments go and negotiate these deals direct?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: As far as I know, we make purchases only on behalf of the Government in the various Ministries. It is only the officers of those Ministries who are connected with the purchase from a technical and specialised angle that are associated with these purchases.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: So many delegations have gone and I presume there has been an expenditure of foreign exchange. May I know whether the gain by way of economy in foreign exchange is greater or the sum spent on such delegations is greater?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I have not sent any delegations so far as the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is concerned. Delegations go for certain specified projects, for example, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry or some other Ministry may send but so far as the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is concerned, we have two regular establishments there and we make purchases on behalf of the various Ministries of the Government of India. If a particular item is to be purchased and if it is of a very high value or there is some special specification, then the officers of the indenting Ministry in a way collaborate with my officers so that we make the right type of purchase.

आकाशवाणी से उर्दू कार्यक्रमों का प्रसारण

*५०६. श्री नवाबसिंह खोहान : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उर्दू वालों की यह मांग है कि आकाशवाणी