

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 22nd December, 1960/
the 1st Pausa, 1882 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MANUFACTURE OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

*580. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation regarding economic and technical problems of manufacturing agricultural implements in various regions of the country has been undertaken by Government; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the results of the investigations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b) The matter is always under consideration of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and several steps have been taken to increase the production of all types of agricultural implements, machineries and tools.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know the steps that have been taken for producing the agricultural implements?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, various machineries for agricultural production have been licensed for the manufacture of tractors and various other implements like knives, axles, kodalis, shovels, bill hooks, garden shears, etc.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Sir, the most important thing that is understood by 'agricultural implements' is the plough. According to the Census of 1956 there are only one million odd improved ploughs in the

entire country for 65 million families engaged in agriculture. Has that particular aspect been receiving the attention of the Government?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir; this aspect has been receiving our careful attention. Actually speaking, Sir, the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Community Development have appointed a Standing Committee on agricultural implements. The figures of the hon. Member perhaps are not quite up-to-date. There has been a large-scale production of indigenous ploughs and implements in every State.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I want to know the actual number of ploughs, if my information is not correct.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As you will appreciate, Sir, it is not possible to find out the number of ploughs with every cultivator, but it is quite understood that every cultivator has a plough; it is no use believing that he has none.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Has the Government made arrangements to manufacture weeding mechanical apparatus which eliminates the use of bullocks, and also the manufacture of spades and pickaxes? Has it made arrangements to sell them on a 'no profit no loss' basis, as the prices prevailing today are very prohibitive?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, there are so many questions coupled here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quite true.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I might submit that the list of agricultural implements is so large, and the hon. Members who are connected with agriculture perhaps know it. All of them are being manufactured in the country in a very large manner and modern improvements in this field are continuously taking place through the depots run by the Government of India itself and also by the State Agriculture Departments.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know the steps taken by the Government to encourage the cottage industry sector of our country in order to manufacture agricultural implements in that sector?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, the entire field is left to the small-scale industry sector—about 39 agricultural implements.

SUPPLY OF COAL TO COAL DEALERS IN DELHI

*581. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 285 in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 1960 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal dealers in Delhi are being given facilities for the regular supply of coal along with rake;

(b) whether Government have received complaints to the effect that hard and steam coal is being imported in Delhi under the pretext of soft coke; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to avert the shortage of coal in Delhi during this winter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to normal quota of coal/coke for Delhi, arrangements have also been made by Delhi Administration to secure an *ad-hoc* allotment for the current winter. Movement has been arranged in block rakes to ensure quick supplies. Arrangements are also being made to create coal dumps in Delhi as reserve stocks.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that some of the wagons have been redirected to the small stations around Delhi?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I am not aware of that, Sir.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that because of this shifting a number of malpractices are being indulged in and instead of this soft coke, hard and steam coal is being smuggled into the capital?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, I might mention that the actual indenting and distribution of coke and coal is done by the Delhi Administration. Here I am replying to the question with regard to movement of coal by the S.T.C.: I have no information if any wagons have been diverted. My information is that about 5,033 wagons have been brought here so far and have been handed over to the various parties as directed by the Delhi Administration.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the import of coal by the S.T.C. was cancelled for a few months or so?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir. The S.T.C. is only lending its good offices. The arrangement is to end in January 1961.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the Government is quite satisfied with the present arrangement? Does it think that the Delhi public will not have to face any crisis of coal in the coming winter?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, the Delhi Administration has informed us that there is not going to be any crisis. As for the adequacy or otherwise, Sir, the Delhi Administration is responsible.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Is the hon. Minister aware that the coal to be supplied to the Constitution House and the Western Court could not be supplied on account of some strike at the railway station?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I have no information.