

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether raw materials for these small-scale plants will be available in India or will they have to be imported from abroad?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: India is fortunate in having the large availability of raw materials for paper manufacture.

*574. [The questioner (Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3061 infra.]

ACTIVITIES OF WEST GERMAN MECHANICS AND ENGINEERS AT ROURKELA

*575. { SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA†:
DR. R. B. GOUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report about the activities of the West German mechanics and engineers at Rourkela;

(b) whether it is correct, as the report says, that the Prime Minister took up the allegations against these mechanics and engineers with the West German Ambassador in Delhi; and

(c) whether these allegations by a West German journal against their own experts at Rourkela were adequately and effectively brought to the notice of the Bonn Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Government's attention was drawn to certain reports in the foreign Press.

(b) and (c) As these reports, on enquiry, were found to be incorrect or grossly exaggerated, there was no question of taking up these allegations

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

with the Ambassador of the Federal German Republic in India or of bringing them to the notice of the Bonn Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have got the entire article translated from German into English; it runs into 21 close-type pages, and the paper is called "Der Spiegel", a West German weekly magazine. May I know whether, in particular, the Prime Minister's attention was drawn to this portion? I will read out the portion. It says:

"India's Prime Minister Nehru turned to the German Ambassador in New Delhi, Dr. Wilhelm Melchers. The Ambassador said on that occasion: 'We have reported about the bad situation in Rourkela to the Foreign Office, our report was also forwarded to the firms. But the gentlemen of industry were offended and said that Rourkela was none of the Embassy's business.'"

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, they have seen the report. Now you can put a question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government have seen this portion and a number of serious allegations against the manner in which some West German mechanics were doing their work and also the allegation against our own country and our own people?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Government have seen all these reports and also the reports which have appeared in other papers, other than "Der Spiegel". Some enquiry was made and, as I have already stated in the answer, these things were found to be grossly exaggerated or groundless.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is not a fact that in the article in question, the article to which I have referred, certain German mechanics and others who came to India, this country, have been quoted and their own words have been quoted?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, "Der Spiegel" is a sensation-mongering paper which is read widely in Germany, and while it is true that it is widely read, it does not always give the absolute truth about things.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether Government have any information about the character of this newspaper? Is it one of those newspapers which try to gain cheap popularity by indulging in cheap propaganda against their Government and people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: She has already said that it is one of the sensation-mongering papers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I do not want to comment on that paper, because that is not my business here. I simply want to say this that the German experts who came here, after this allegation had been made, they were quoted as having corroborated certain things and Mr. Ganapathy had also been quoted. All these things are there. How does the hon. Minister say that all these allegations are false, when the Germans themselves have said that such malpractices and acts of misbehaviour took place?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you take that version as authentic?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you are not to answer questions. Do I take it . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am expressing what she said. The answer is that the allegations were investigated and found to be utterly unfounded.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, this is not at all my point. I say that the German experts came here and they themselves have corroborated these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That itself is unfounded.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, all these facts are here. The Germans themselves have confessed . . .

(Interruptions.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Sir, will you kindly allow me to put one question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I will not allow it. Next question.

लघु उद्योगों द्वारा घड़ियों का उत्पादन

*५७६. श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान :
क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) लघु उद्योग-क्षेत्र में घड़ियों के उत्पादन के लिये अब तक कितने प्रार्थना-पत्र आये हैं और सरकार ने उन पर क्या कार्य-वाही की ; और

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में देश भर में कितने कारखानों की इजाजत देने की योजना है और क्या घड़ियों के निर्माण के लिये कोई समय सारणी बनायी गई है ?

†[MANUFACTURE OF WATCHES BY THE SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

*576. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications so far received for the manufacture of watches in the small scale industries sector and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(b) the number of factories which are proposed to be sanctioned for this purpose all over the country and whether any time-table has been drawn up for the manufacture of watches?]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Four applications have been received so far. They are under examination.

(b) It is proposed to permit the setting up of 3 units in each State for

†[] English translation.