

SETTING UP OF AN INDIAN KITCHEN AT BRITISH FOOD FAIR

•602. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a modern Indian kitchen will be set up at the British Food Fair to be opened from the 1st September; and

(b) if so, what will be the special features of that kitchen?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The High Commission of India at London has arranged to set up an Indian Kitchen in the International Kitchen Exhibition at the British Food Fair scheduled to take place from 1st to 17th September, 1960.

The kitchen will be staffed by a team of 4 to 6 Indian lady volunteers who will act as demonstrators. Indian dishes of different types will be prepared each day and served to the visitors. The kitchen will be fully equipped at the cost of the British Gas Council in the United Kingdom. Ingredients required for cooking will be drawn each day from the Store at the Exhibition maintained at the cost of the Gas Council.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether this kitchen will be designed and arranged in Indian style or in European style and, if the answer is that it is to be designed in the Indian style, what is the name and the qualification of the designer?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I do not know the style, but Indian dishes will be cooked there.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will idly and Sambhar also be prepared there?
(No reply.)

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether the selection of the lady volunteers will be made in India or in England?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The wives of the officers of the High Commission and the other Indian ladies who are living in England have volunteered.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether there is any proposal to set up a permanent unit of the Indian kitchen there to popularise Indian dishes?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There seems to be a misunderstanding. No kitchen is being set up by India. There is going to be a British Food Fair in which they want the dishes of different countries to be served to the people and to be demonstrated. The kitchen is being set up at the British Food Fair by the Gas Council. However, they have asked for volunteers who are being made available.

FALL IN THE EXPORT VALUE OF INDIAN TEA

*603. SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of Indian tea fell in value by Rs. 10 crores last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that Ceylon tea has regained its market in the United Arab Republic while Indian tea has lost its market there; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian tea has not lost its market in United Arab Republic.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI ANSABUDDIN AHMAD: Is there any truth in the press report freely circulated that Ceylon tea has regained its market because Indian tea has deteriorated in quality and also, because its price is higher?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I do not know the source of information of the hon. Member. It is very difficult for us—and embarrassing also—to be comparing all these things in relation to Ceylon all the time. But the fact is that during the first six months of this year, we have exported much more tea than Ceylon.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Is it not a fact that although our exports have not fallen actually, they have not kept pace with the increase in exports by Ceylon and South Africa to the tea-consuming countries?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The question relates to the United Arab Republic and we are improving upon the position that we had in the past.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Most of the questions are general. May I know whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Tea Export Promotion Council in Western Europe is also the Chairman of Messrs. Helson Lyons & Company in Hamburg and that against this firm, there are certain allegations of manipulations in tea exports to the western part of Europe?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The Tea Promotion Council in West Germany is a non-official organisation composed of the tea trade of West Germany. Some of the tea-producing countries like India and Ceylon also make contribution to the Council for promoting the tea-drinking habit there. I am not aware of the details which the hon. Member is referring to.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that serious allegations were made against this particular firm that

they were getting tea exported out of his country in a manner which is harmful to our country and Indian firms are being hard-pressed? If this is the case, why are such people who are not interested in the actual promotion of tea export are kept in such high positions? The Indian Government should have checked it.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The Indian Government does not decide as to who will be the Chairman of the Council. That is decided by the Council itself.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know the steps taken by the Government to see that the high import duties imposed by West Germany against our tea are reduced so that our exports may be stepped up?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: This matter has been discussed from time to time. But the total revenue from duties on tea and coffee in West Germany is about one-seventh of their total budget. It is for that Government to decide. We cannot compel them to reduce their duties.

CONFERENCE OF BANDUNG COUNTRIES ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

*604. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a certain amount of preparatory work has been completed for holding an Economic Conference of the Bandung countries; and

(b) if so, what is the latest stage of such preparations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) and (b) The proposal to hold a Conference of 'Bandung countries' to consider economic questions of common interest first came from the then Prime Minister of Ceylon, the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. Our Prime Minister expressed his agreement to the pro-