

## RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 1st September, 1960/  
the 10th Bhadra, 1882 (Saka)

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

### MEMBER SWORN

Shri I. T. Lohani (Gujarat)

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### SHORTAGE OF PAPER

\*573. DR. A. N. BOSE: Will the  
Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there  
is acute shortage of paper in the  
country and the existing paper mills  
are not able to meet the requirements  
of various Government printing  
presses resulting in acute shortage of  
forms in Government Departments;  
and

(b) whether it is a fact that the  
shortage of paper has seriously affect-  
ed the publishing business and con-  
sequently the cause of education and  
learning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY  
(SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b)  
Yes, Sir. There is some shortage  
being felt in the availability of paper.  
But the supply position has consid-  
erably improved due to a very big  
rise in the internal production of  
paper from about 200,000 tons a year  
in 1957 to about 350,000 tons in the  
current year. The demand has also  
picked up and therefore the Govern-  
ment are importing cheap printing  
paper through the State Trading Cor-  
poration to meet the gap between  
demand and supply.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Have the Govern-  
ment made any survey of the pro-  
duction of the existing mills and of  
their stocks and found out the exact  
amount of deficit?

521 RSD.—1.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is  
a continuous thing. They send us  
their production as well as supply  
figures. Nowadays, because of  
increased production, the supply posi-  
tion has also considerably eased.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is the Government  
aware that cornering and profiteering  
are indulged in by some of the paper  
merchants and, if so, what steps have  
been taken to check this evil?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is  
exactly what I replied. The supply  
position has considerably eased owing  
to some increase in the local produc-  
tion, almost by 75 per cent. and the  
quantity, to the extent of the margin,  
being imported. There may be some  
rare complaints in respect of certain  
varieties of paper, but broadly speak-  
ing we have not, in recent months,  
received any major complaints in  
regard to printing paper.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I  
know whether it is a fact that licen-  
ces have been given for setting up  
certain small-scale industries for  
manufacture of paper on a very large  
scale, but these licences are not being  
used because the necessary machinery  
is not available?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I am very  
glad that the hon. Member has raised  
that question. We have approved 71  
small-scale schemes ranging from two,  
five and ten tons per day and 39 of  
those schemes have already been  
issued import licences. In the mean-  
time, some happy development has  
taken place; we have started manu-  
facturing these machines completely in  
this country, and all the schemes  
which have been approved are being  
diverted to the indigenous-machinery  
manufacture.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Is it a  
fact that consumption of paper in  
India is the lowest?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, that  
is true.

**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?