

available for export, as is suggested in the Statement?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We are now targetting for an export of about 200,000 tons and perhaps if the present position continues, we may even have half a million tons as exportable surplus. There is no question of the export suffering due to the internal demand at present.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure adequate supplies to the ultimate consumers, I mean the small consumers?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Today, as a matter of fact, as the House is aware, there is absolutely no complaint from anywhere in the country in regard to the supply of cement.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the economic principle that the price should depend on the supply and demand position, Government propose to make some reduction in the price of cement so that all those who are poor may be able to repair their own old houses?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There is no question of that nature. Actually speaking, the retail distribution is all done by the trade itself. The S.T.C. arranges for the transport and allocation to the different areas and the different factories. The price, as I have already indicated, is fixed at Rs. 117/8 for every depot throughout the country.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Is there any proposal to reduce this price of Rs. 117/8 so that the poorer classes may be able to repair their old houses? At present they find it difficult to purchase cement at Rs. 117/8.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: In view of the poor off-take of cement or at least the reduction in the off-take of cement in the Plan period, what is the policy of Government with regard to licensing of new units?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We have already covered about ten million tons by the issue of licences. Because there is surplus of cement today, we are going slow in the licensing of new ones and practically all the applications which are pending are held up till the situation improves.

PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT'S ORDER FOR COMPULSORY STUDY IN PORTUGUESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN GOA

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press reports to the effect that the Portuguese Government in Goa have recently promulgated an order making it compulsory for every child of seven years to attend a Portuguese primary school;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Portuguese authorities have also prohibited the circulation of text books in English and Indian languages in the Goan territory; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any action against such anti-Indian measures in Goa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) We have received reports that the authorities in Goa have promulgated an order on 2nd October, 1958 requiring all private schools to arrange for teaching the official Portuguese course to all students between 7 and 13 years of age.

(b) Yes.

(c) This is under Government's consideration.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the normal medium of instruction in the primary schools in Goa?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: In the case of the private schools, the medium of instruction is Marathi.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is not a fact that books in Marathi have been proscribed even beyond the school Stage?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: They were proscribed but now, I think, for the current year the rules have been relaxed but they are strictly censored.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is there any truth in the suggestion that the Portuguese authorities are importing teachers from Portugal in preference to the local teachers?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have no knowledge of that.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: How long has the Government been considering this proposition, Sir?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have already said, Sir, that the proclamation or the order was enforced on the 2nd of October, 1958.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या मंत्री महोदया कृपा करके बता सकती हैं कि गोआ के विद्यार्थी कौन से बोर्ड के अथवा यूनिवर्सिटी के इन्स्टिट्यूट दे सकते हैं ऐसे हालत में ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The students from Goa used to come to India for their S.S.L.C. and also to continue their studies.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether the hon. Minister has got some information regarding whether the people of Goa are protesting against this or not?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have no information, Sir.

INDIAN OXYGEN LTD., CALCUTTA

*638. { SHRI Z. A. AHMAD:
†SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain complaints about the functions and activities of the Indian Oxygen Limited, Calcutta;

(b) whether certain changes have recently taken place in the company following some reference to this company in the Lok Sabha; and

(c) if so, what are the changes?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) About a week ago, the All India Indian Oxygen and Acetylene Employees' Federation, Calcutta, made certain complaints about the Indian Oxygen Ltd. The matter is under examination.

(b) and (c). As a result of some discussions that the Government had with them, the firm was converted into a public limited company in January, 1958, with its name changed to Indian Oxygen Ltd. from the Indian Oxygen and Acetylene Co., Ltd. It is no longer a wholly foreign subsidiary, as 30 per cent. of the share capital is now held by the Indian public.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether this particular concern, the Indian Oxygen Ltd., is a subsidiary of the British Oxygen Ltd.?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: In a sense, it was but now at the instance of the Government, that concern has

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