

IMPORT AND PRINTING OF BANK
CHEQUES AND LETTERS OF CREDIT

*156. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of bank cheques and letters of credit printed outside India has been banned or restricted;

(b) whether bank cheques and letters of credit are all being printed in India now; and

(c) whether it is the policy of the Government of India to encourage their printing in India only?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (c). The import of bank cheques and letters of credit is allowed on a restricted basis with a view to encouraging their printing in India. Some imports have to be licensed to foreign banks having branches in several countries and to travel agents on security considerations and for the development of tourist traffic.

(b) No, Sir. However, Government requirements are all being printed by the Security Press in Nasik Road. Permission has been granted to two firms for printing of cheques in India in collaboration with foreign firms.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Is it a fact that a licence has recently been granted to Indian Security Printers, of Kanpur, for this purpose?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Is it a fact that they have entered into an agreement with a foreign firm which will have more than 50 per cent interest in that concern?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Messrs. Sprague Ltd., London, will have 51 per cent. of Rs. 7,00,000—the total issued capital is Rs. 7,00,000—and the Indian firm 49 per cent.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Is it consistent with the policy of Indianisation of these concerns?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: One of the stipulations being made is that in due course and not very late, it would be having an Indian majority.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE
BRITISH AND SOVIET TEAMS OF
EXPERTS REGARDING SETTING UP OF
HEAVY ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

*157. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether different recommendations were made by the teams of British and Soviet experts regarding the setting up of heavy engineering industry in the country; and

(b) if so, in what way they differ and which of the two recommendations are considered more suitable by Government?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Russian experts recommended the establishment of a single plant with an ultimate output of 80,000 tons per year, production of 45,000 tons per year being the first stage. The plant would be meant primarily for producing machinery required by the steel industry.

2. The British Mission recommended the establishment of separate units, each specialising in a specific engineering operation, for heavy structural works, heavy plate and vessel works, production of heavy machine tool works and a heavy machine shop. These together were intended to meet the machinery needs of a number of major industries e.g. steel, fertilizers, chemicals, etc.

3. The reports of the two teams of experts were thus of different nature, each having its own advantages. It has since been decided in principle to establish a heavy machine build-