

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday 22nd November 1956

The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FACTORIES FOR THE MANUFACTURE
OF ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT

*53. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign owned factories for the manufacture of electric equipment are functioning in India at present;

(b) what is the total capital invested in these factories; and

(c) what is the capital invested in similar Indian owned factories?

THE MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a), (b) and (c). There are about 101 factories in India for the manufacture of electrical equipment and machinery. Out of these, 89 are Indian owned and 12 factories are either wholly or partly owned by foreign firms. The total capital invested in these factories is about Rs. 15 crores. Out of this, about 4.55 crores is foreign paid up capital in the 12 factories mentioned above. Further data is being collected in this connection and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha in due

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether these companies have also taken loans; and if so, including these loans what is the total capital?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Including the loans, the total will be about Rs. 18.7 crores.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the progress up to now? If we are importing articles of this type, how long will it take to stop such imports?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: In 1951 the total production was goods worth Rs. 18 crores. This has risen in the last four years to Rs. 35 crores and we hope to produce goods worth over Rs. 65 crores at the end

of the Second Five Year Plan and then the country will be more or less self-sufficient in most commodities, except heavy insulators, heavy transformers and generators.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: By which year?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: By the end of the Second Five Year Plan.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: What is the production of the foreign factories as compared with the production of the Indian factories?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is difficult to give the actual figures but as I mentioned the units are 89 Indian owned and 12 foreign owned.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: What is the total production value of these 12 foreign owned factories?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says it is difficult to say.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Sir, my contention is that these twelve foreign factories have got the preponderating share of production as compared to the Indian industries and so I wanted the data.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is really not so, though their ratio is not as 89 to 12. However, it is not very preponderating.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Sir, may I know why there should be any difficulty in the manufacture of heavy insulators to which the hon. Minister just now referred?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There is actually no such difficulty, but so far only preparations have been made and the country may not be quite self-sufficient by the end of the Second Five Year Plan in these articles.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Are not the N.G.K. of Japan collaborating with some Indian concerns for the manufacture of high tension insulators?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: They are, and mostly we will be reaching self-sufficiency but we will not be quite as self-sufficient as in other articles.

PROF. HUMAYUN KABIR: What is the capital investment of these 89 Indian factories as compared to that of the 12 foreign factories?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is only a matter of subtraction of Rs. 4.55 crores from Rs. 15 crores and you get Rs. 10.45 crores as the investment of the Indian concerns.

*54. [The questioner (Shri P. C. Bhanj Deb) was absent. For answer, vide col. 338 infra.]

*55 to *57. [For answers, vide cols. 330-36 infra.]

BLOCKED FOREIGN ASSETS IN INDIA

*58. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of blocked foreign assets in India; and

(b) the reasons for which they were blocked?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Value of blocked cash balances and securities as on the 30th June 1956 was Rs. 22.27 lakhs.

(b) They relate mainly to:

(i) infringement of Import Control and Exchange Control Regulations,

(ii) capital assets of emigrants to non-sterling area countries or capital assets of non-sterling area nationals retiring to their own countries, and

(iii) accounts of beneficiaries who were either never resident in India or had left India prior to the imposition of Exchange Control.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The foreign assets of which countries are mostly blocked here.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: There are various countries—U.S.A., Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Israel, Italy, Pakistan and a few others.

CENTRAL GEOPHYSICAL INSTITUTE

*59. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES and SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Geophysical Institute has been established; and

(b) if not, when it will be established and at what cost?

THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Geophysical Research Wing in the Geological Survey of India is likely to be established in 1957-58 at a total cost of about Rs. 70.00 lakhs during the Second Five Year Plan period.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Even as early as 1952 or so, there was a committee which recommended the setting up of this institute. May I know why it was not taken up in the First Five Year Plan?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: A committee of specialists was set up to investigate the problems concerning the setting up of a Central Geophysical Institute in India; but in view of the paucity of funds and more especially technicians, it was considered better and desirable also to set up a nucleus for research in the Geological Survey of India. Now the proposals are being processed and as soon as we are ready with it, a research wing in the Geological Survey of India will be set up for improvement both in the methods of instrumentation and in geophysical exploration.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In the absence of such a central institute, how was the work of geophysical investigations being carried on till now?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: We have a number of geophysicists and we have some instruments also. But a