

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: They were granted to established importers.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Will the Government kindly state whether a scheme from Indore was received from one Mr. Kasture?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am sorry that my friend has mentioned it; his scheme was of a very elementary nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you say all that? Was it received or not?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It was received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: What is the consideration which the scheme is receiving from the Government?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have already answered that, Sir.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: I have not heard it.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, the scheme was of a very elementary character and we did not think it practicable to pursue that matter.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Sir, may I know the number of importers granted licences in 1953?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice for that, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the amount for which import licences were granted?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The amount involved was Rs. 57,33,000 and the number of watches was 26,17,197.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know what is the output of the Bombay factory according to the scheme submitted?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have not got figures of the plan, Sir.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know how many watches were smuggled last year?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No statistics are available, Sir.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know whether the Government is aware that a Swiss paper called "The Watch-Maker" has said that most of the contraband trade is done through the air-lines?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir, that is not our information; our information is that most of the contraband stuff comes from Goa and Pondicherry.

I would like to add, in correction of my earlier figures given in respect of imports for 1952-53, that the number actually imported was 2,13,960 and the value is Rs. 52,66,393.

COST OF PRODUCTION PER TON OF AMMONIUM SULPHATE

*201. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of production per ton of ammonium sulphate in Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., at the existing level of its production;

(b) whether Government will lay a copy of each of the agreements concluded with Messrs. Associated Cement Companies Ltd. and Messrs. Carl Still on the Table of the Council; and

(c) how the proposed distribution agency of the fertilizers is going to be set up?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) It is not normal to disclose the actual cost of production of articles in commercial concerns and it is not desirable to publicise the cost of production of ammonium sulphate in the Sindri Factory.

(b) Government have not concluded any agreement with either the Associated Cement Company Ltd., or M/s.

Carl Still. Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, a private limited company registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, have, however, an agreement with the Associated Cement Company in connection with the establishment of a cement factory at Sindri. They are also executing an agreement with Messrs. Carl Still of West Germany for setting up a Coke-oven Plant. As the agreements are between private limited companies, Government deem it inappropriate to place copies of the agreements on the Table of the House.

(c) The question of the future marketing arrangements for the Sindri fertilizer is under consideration.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: On a point of order, Sir. While I fully appreciate the hon. Minister's reasons for not giving the figures of the cost of production, I should like to know how Parliament can keep a check on the real cost of production. Some method must be found whereby Parliament is apprised of the cost of production so that its control, if the cost of production is much too high, may be properly exercised.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The suggestion made by the hon. Member raises a large policy aspect of the matter. Parliament will be apprised of the results of the working of the company every year when the balance sheets and the profit and loss accounts are made available to the House. I may inform the hon. Member that the balance sheets, etc., for the first year of its working have already been placed in the Library of the House, and I think that should satisfy the hon. Member and the House. Apart from that, Sir, the question as to the extent and the manner of Parliamentary control over the working of these industrial undertakings is a large question that has to be settled ultimately by establishing conventions. Even in an advanced country like the United Kingdom for example, these conventions are still being established. This is a process which we have got to go through with care and circumspection.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it not a fact that from January 1953 to April 1953, the rate of production has gone down and the prices have also come down, and that, in spite of this, 74,000 tons of manure are lying unsold in the godown?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The hon. Member has rolled a number of questions into one. Some of the assumptions, I am afraid, are not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That production is diminishing.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, Sir, I am coming to that. The answer to that is that production has not gone down as the hon. Member has assumed. It may be that in one month or in one fortnight there may be fluctuations in production, but, on the whole, production has not gone down generally from January 1953.

Regarding the second part of the question, the price has been reduced from Rs. 365 per ton to Rs. 290 per ton.

Thirdly, the stock in the period January-February was in the neighbourhood of about 75,000 tons but to-day it is in the neighbourhood of 30,000 tons.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: What was the production from January to April 1953?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am sorry, I cannot give the figures now.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Government take the figures that I have given? January production was 26,987 tons and April production was 22,957 tons. Does the hon. Minister deny that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Confirm or contradict.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have compared the 1953 production with that of 1952. So far as production in 1953 is concerned, I have said that, on the average, it has gone up. The average production is now 800 to 850 tons per

day. It may be that in one fortnight, for example, in June, production was low, definitely low because of some mishap to a part of the plant which has been set right now. So far as the actual figures are concerned, if the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall be glad to give the figures.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: The hon. Minister while replying admitted that though it was a private limited company, the Government was the entire shareholder. So, why is it that the cost of production in the Sindri Fertilizer Factory is high? We are selling the fertilizers for Rs. 285 while the Japanese fertilizer is available for Rs. 200 per ton in India?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Sir, the Government is the sole shareholder in this Company. So far as the cost of production of the fertilizer is concerned, I do not agree with the assumption made by the hon. Member that the cost of production in Sindri is higher.....

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: We do not know.

SHRI K. C. REDDY:.....than, generally speaking, the cost of production elsewhere. As regards the cost of the Japanese fertilizer, I would invite the hon. Member to go into the cost of production of the Japanese fertilizers sent in various consignments to various parts of the world. It is true that one consignment to India was sent at a subsidised price and the price quoted was less than the prices charged in India. There are so many factors that go into a question like that and it is not desirable to compare the cost of one consignment with the cost of production in this country.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Inasmuch as the share capital is owned by the Government of India, why is it that Government cannot lay the copies of the agreement on the Table of the House on the technical ground that it is just a private limited company?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I submit, Sir, it is not a technical ground on which

consider it undesirable to place agreements on the Table of the House. For example, the Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., is no doubt a Government concern, though technically it is a private limited company. There are so many agreements entered into by a private limited company like this—small contracts—and it would not be desirable or feasible to place all such agreements on the Table of the House. As I said, Sir, this is a very large question and I submit that we have to establish conventions as we go on.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: The hon. Minister said that the selling price of fertilizer was reduced from Rs. 365 to Rs. 290. How was this effected? Is it by reduction in cost of production or by subsidy?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I must straight-away say, Sir, it is not by subsidy. The price that we have fixed is well within the cost of production.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: May I know which are the States that are using fertilizers?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: All the States are using fertilizers in varying quantities; for example, Madras, U.P., West Bengal, Punjab. Wherever there are large irrigation projects, larger quantities are used.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that in the case of projects that are sponsored by the Government when agreements are made with firms, this House which sanctions the money has no means of knowing what the terms of the agreements are?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Well, Sir, the hon. Member is repeating the question over and over again. I have said what the policy of the Government is for the present. We shall examine the matter again and see to what extent we can disclose the terms of the agreement to the House.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it a fact, Sir, that Rs. 25 lakhs worth of coal and other raw materials are missing from the godown?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: That is not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They seem to have all sorts of information about missing stocks.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am afraid, Sir, that is not quite correct information. If the hon. Member were to read the Directors' Report, the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account statement that I have placed in the Library, he would come to know what the position is.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it a fact or not? That is what I want to know. I have gone through the report of the Directors. I want to know whether the fact that I have stated is correct or not.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The fact, as he has stated, is not quite correct.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What is the fact then? The hon. Minister said just now it is not quite correct. How far is it correct, we want to know.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Well, there are certain shortages in stocks. They have yet to be explained. The Audit Report discloses certain shortage of stocks. It is not very unusual or unnatural to notice a difference in stocks in big companies like this which handle lakhs and lakhs of tons of coal or gypsum or other raw materials. A Committee has been set up by the company to go into this question and find out the real causes for such shortage. We are awaiting the report of that Committee and we will be perfectly ready to take the House into confidence and explain to them what it is all about, but in due course.

INTERFERENCE BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN INDIAN POST OFFICE AT MAHE

*202. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French authorities interfered in June

1953 with the routine work of the Indian Post Office at Mahe; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to stop the recurrence of such interference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). There was a minor incident on 18th June 1953, when two French police constables attempted to interfere in the work of a postman of the Indian post office at Mahe in the delivery of parcels. When this incident was brought to the notice of the French Administrator, Mahe, necessary instructions were issued by him to ensure against future interference of this nature.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Has there been any such interference before?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: No, Sir.

COST OF DESIGNING THE POWER PLANT AT BOKARO

*203. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of designing the power plant at Bokaro;

(b) whether the designs were checked before the plant was erected; and, if so, by whom; and

(c) whether any tenders were called and received before placing the orders for the erection of the plant?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) The cost is about \$ 800,000.

(b) Yes, Sir, the designs were checked by the Chief Electrical Engineer, Damodar Valley Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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