

matter should be handed over to the police?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: As it is, Sir, from the facts it does not seem to be suspicious, because the hurricane lantern was there; some gallons of petrol caught fire and the damage was not much. So the circumstances are not suspicious.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: If you excuse me, Sir, I would say that the circumstances are definitely suspicious inasmuch as

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: He has made a suggestion, and the hon. Minister has not denied it, that the whole store was electrified and there was no need for a hurricane lantern to be taken there. If that is a fact, and also the extraordinary coincidence that seems to be indicated here, does not the Government think it desirable to see that further enquiry is made into this matter?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It was not electrified; this was not a big store; it was a shed.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Will the hon. Minister inform the House whether the chaprassi who was taking out the petrol was injured by fire?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: He had received some injury.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BONE MILL BY A FOREIGN CONCERN

*205. **SHRI V. K. DHAGE:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new foreign combine has recently acquired lands in Madhya Pradesh for constructing a bone crushing mill;

(b) if so, what is the name of the company and the capital proposed to be invested by it; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the owners of the existing bone crushing mills and if so, what are their complaints and what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a), (b) and (c). On receiving representations from the existing bone crushing mills enquiries were made from the Madhya Pradesh Government which reveal that a Belgian firm called "Cogelos" has acquired some land near Khapri Railway Station for erecting a bone crushing mill. Government have no other information on the subject at present, but the matter is under active investigation.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Sir, may I know whether a representation has been made that the present mills are capable of crushing all the raw material that is available?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Not all that is available, but the present crushing capacity is sufficient for the time being.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Did they represent that they needed protection in this matter?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What have the Government done with regard to this matter?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have promised them protection.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the Government doing with regard to this Belgian firm?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have for the present stopped the import of any machinery in this regard and we will not allow this Belgian firm to establish a bone crushing mill. The needful will be done in this matter.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are thinking of protecting the bone crushing industry in India?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: May I know, Sir, whether the Government think it advisable to put a ban on the export of raw materials from such States in which bone crushing mills exist?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We do not now export raw materials.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if there is a proposal made by the Village Industries Board that bone crushing should be left to village industries?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have not got the information with me at the present moment.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is it not a fact, Sir, that a small machine is invented at Kora Gram Udyog Kendra for bone crushing in villages?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have no information on that point.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Is it not the policy of the Government to encourage village industries and save them from the competition of these big mills?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. Wherever we select a sector on this basis, we do it.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know, Sir, whether the land was acquired with or without the knowledge of the Government?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It was done without our knowledge.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether the Government is going to prevent the importation of the machinery? And how is the Government going to protect our industries?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: The land was acquired without our knowledge; that could not be helped. But where the import of machinery is concerned, I have already stated in the Council earlier that we have at the moment banned the import of machinery in this regard.

MANUFACTURE OF SOAP IN INDIA

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

(a) the total rated capacity of manufacture of soap in the country, both organised as well as cottage scale industry;

(b) what is the rated capacity of the soap plants of Messrs. Lever Brothers (India) Ltd., and that of indigenous manufacturers;

(c) what is the percentage of utilization of the rated capacity of Messrs. Lever Brothers (India) Ltd., and that of other groups; and

(d) whether Government received any representation complaining of the unbalanced position of the rated capacity of these two categories; and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) The annual rated capacity for soap production in the country is estimated at about 270,000 tons, out of which a capacity of 193,500 tons is in the organised units, the remainder being in the cottage sector.

(b) The rated capacity of the soap plants of M/s. Lever Bros. (India) Ltd. is estimated at about 49,000 tons, the rated capacity of other organised units is estimated at about 1,44,000 tons.

(c) M/s. Lever Bros. (India) Ltd. have been working to their full capacity; other units are utilising their capacity to a varying extent depending upon their capacity to sell their output.

(d) Yes, Sir, some representations have been received. It is obvious that