

they carry out some kind of a provision review on the basis of past and forward requirements and they place indents one year to eighteen months ahead. Before they declare as surplus any stores, they, within their own various Departments, first ensure that any of the stores that might be surplus to a particular Department are not required by any other Department, and when those lists come to the Supply Department in its Disposals Wing, there also some kind of screening is carried out by the Supply Officers. As soon as an indent is received demanding certain stores, it is passed on to the Disposals Wing who carry out within 48 hours to the extent possible a scrutiny and then only purchase action is taken.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Will not the hon. Minister agree that there is a large quantity of superfluous stores lying idle in the stores?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: It may be quite another question. The only point that was asked is whether any of the stores purchased last year were disposed of as surplus within that year.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Apart from that, a question is put in supplementary whether there are any stores lying idle?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: If the hon. Member has in mind any kind of special stores and if he puts a question on that, I will endeavour to answer.

FALL IN PRICES OF BALL BEARINGS

*281. **SHRI K. C. GEORGE:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by Government to bring down the prices of ball bearings; if so, what?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): The ball bearing industry has been granted protection with the approval of the

House. The very basis of grant of protection to an industry is the fact that the prices of its products are higher. It is inevitable that the consumer should pay relatively high prices for the indigenous product of the protected industry. On the other hand, the Home industry concerned is not expected to profiteer as a result of protection. It is with this end in view that the Tariff Commission keeps a watch on the trend of prices of the products of every protected industry and the case of protection is reviewed after a reasonable period.

2. One or two complaints about high prices of the indigenous ball bearings were received by Government and they were referred to the Tariff Commission. The Tariff Commission's view was that the prices quoted were not unreasonable.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the concerns are not working up to their rated capacity now and that is one of the reasons why the prices have gone up?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice regarding the rated capacity *vis-a-vis* production. But I find from the figures available that the production is rising. For instance, in 1950 the production was 40,822; in 1952, it was 4,16,769 and in 1953, up to and including July, it was 3,93,203. So the production is rising steadily.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is any amount paid as royalty to foreigners?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: This is a matter which was discussed at the time of granting protection. There is a link-up with a foreign firm and the agreement was discussed threadbare in the House. For any further information, the hon. Member can refer to the Tariff Commission's Report and if he is not able to secure it Government will be able to furnish it.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: What is the total number of firms that manufacture ball bearings?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: There is only one—the one at Jaipur.

SHRI K C. GEORGE What is the rated capacity of that firm?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: The capacity on a single shift basis is estimated at about 600,000 bearings

SHRI K C GEORGE What is the percentage of shares of Indians in this firm compared to those held by foreigners?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR I should like to have notice

SHRI V K DHAGE May I understand that with the increase in production the price has also been increasing?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR The price has not been increasing with the increase in production. The price has risen for inherent reasons, relating to cost of production.

SHRI V K DHAGE May I know what those reasons are?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: My hon friend is doubtless aware of the components of the cost of production.

SHRI K C GEORGE: In view of the fact that a rise in the price of ball bearings would affect the prices of agricultural implements, will the Government take necessary steps to see that the price is decreased?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR: The prices are not steadily rising. The price has risen after protection was granted as it was intended to and as it should, within limits

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Is the Government keeping an eye on the profit made by the only firm which is manufacturing these ball bearings?

SHRI D P KARMARKAR We keep a very careful eye on all relevant factors

ENGINEERS FOR SINDRI FERTILIZERS FACTORY

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

(a) how many Indian engineers have so far been trained in the operation and management duties of the Sindri Fertilizers Factory, and

(b) where they received the training?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K C REDDY): (a) and (b). Before the Factory commenced production about 23 Indian engineers received training in the U.K., the United States of America and Canada, and five in factories in India itself. More than 200 engineers have since been trained in the Sindri Factory itself.

SHRI K C. GEORGE May I know how many Indians have up till now replaced foreign experts?

SHRI K C REDDY: I do not quite follow the question, Sir. There are now only four non-Indians in the employ of the company and there are under-studies for all those four foreign nationals. In addition to these, there are three UN experts who have been employed and who are helping us in the working of the factory. As I said even with regard to those four foreign nationals in the employ of the company, care is being taken to have under-studies and in course of time it is the intention of the company to replace them.

SHRI K C GEORGE: Sir, my question has not been answered. I want to know how many Indian experts have up till now replaced foreign experts as a result of the training?

SHRI K C REDDY: I do not follow the question

MR CHAIRMAN: What he means is when the Sindri Factory was started we have had a large number