

merce and Industry on 6th June 1953. a copy of which is laid on the Table of the Council.

(iii) and (iv). So far Government have received only one complaint against the high prices of ball bearings manufactured by Messrs. National Bearing Co., Ltd., Jaipur. On investigation, it has been found that the prices charged by the firm are not unreasonable.

(v) No extra expenditure is being incurred on account of this branch.

*Press JVote issued by the Ministry of  
Commerce and Industry dated the  
6th June 1953*

To ensure more expeditious investigation into complaints against industries which enjoy a sheltered market in India—either on account of tariff protection given to them or on account of import restrictions in force—a special branch has been set up in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to deal with all such references. Allegations are made from time to time that the grant of protection to an industry is often followed by a rise in the prices of the products of that industry, deterioration in quality and/or shortage of supplies. The Tariff Commission itself, which examines cases for protection, is required under the Act to keep a watch on the progress of protected industries. The scope of the Tariff Commission's work in this sphere, however, is confined only to industries whose case for protection has been recommended by them, and does not cover the many other industries which, on account of the exigencies of foreign exchange, do not face any serious competition in the home market. Even in the case of industries which have been given protection after an enquiry by the Tariff Commission, Government feel that it is desirable to have a suitable machinery for taking quick and effective action whenever there is a genuine and justifiable complaint. The special branch will be assisted in this work by a number of officers in important industrial centres who will under-

take economic intelligence work and make a special study of market trends apart from carrying out any investigations that may become necessary.

2. Complaints and representation? with full particulars accompanied by" documentary evidence as far as possible, may be addressed to the Officer-in-Charge, Industrial Intelligence Section, Ministry of Commerce and industry, New Delhi.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, so far as^ protected industries are concerned, dr\* I understand that the investigations now carried on by the Tariff Commission are, in the opinion of the Government, not quite satisfactory?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am afraid, there has been a misconception about this. The Tariff Commission can act according to the powers vested under the Tariff Commission Act in regard to investigations of this nature. But there are many other items which could be imported but in respect of which we have banned-imports because of local manufacture, and in respect of which prices have gone up—of local manufactures too. The Tariff Commission cannot obviously interfere in a matter of this nature. The idea is that Government should act as a clearing house for this purpose and that is why this small branch has been set up in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. There is no question of casting any reflection on the ability of the Tariff Comm

ission on this subject, because some portion of this-subject falls outside the competence of the Tariff Commission.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: My question' was limited only to protected industries-and not to those industries which-receive protection because of foreign' exchange restrictions. I asked whether in the opinion of the Government, the present system under which the-Tariff Commission investigates tintO' protected industries has not been satisfactory, because I believe that the Tariff Commission cannot only take UP' questions which are referred to it, but can also have a continuous review of-' protected industries.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, the Act under which the Tariff Commission operates envisages a scheme of delegation of powers to the Tariff Commission. If powers are delegated by Government to an agent, it does not mean that the principal loses his rights. Here is a matter where we think that sometimes an individual consumer may *not* be in a position to communicate with the Tariff Commission directly. That -is why Government have set up this branch. In matters of protected industries, the agency for enquiry will be the Tariff Commission. The Government gets complaints and they are passed on to the Tariff Commission. It might even be that in other matters also we might use the agency of the Tariff Commission. There is no question of any reflection on the Tariff Commission.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Then, do I understand that so far as protected industries are concerned, complaints will be passed on to the Tariff Commission, and therefore, there will be no overlapping, because that was the point I was driving at? And in so far as other industries are concerned, is it the Government's intention to have in existence a sort of continuous review of market trends and commodities in regard to all these industries?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Yes, Sir. So long as we take any responsibility for banning imports or for restricting imports of commodities which are needed by the public in this country; either for the purpose of manufacture or for other purposes, the Government have to keep a continuous watch. And that is what the Government propose to do.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the results of such investigations be made known to the public from time to time?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It all depends upon the importance of a particular industry. I am afraid, I cannot commit myself to any such thing at this stage.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In view of the fact that investigations will be carried on only in respect of the industries which have been protected either by way of foreign exchange restrictions or any other means, is it not desirable that the Government's review of such industries should be made public so that the public may also know as to what is happening?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, whatever the Government does, is not done under a *purdah*. Where the public is interested, it is made public.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, if any complaints have been received in respect of the protected industries so far by this branch?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, the statement gives the information required. There is only one complaint received in regard to protected industries.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know if that complaint is from an individual or from a firm?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I think Government should protect the secret-identity of the informers.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: I am asking only the category, not the names.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It happens to be the general consuming public.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, was this investigation carried on by Government or was it referred to the Tariff Commission?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: This particular matter was referred to the Tariff Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 372. Shrimati Pushpalata Das.

DR. S. K. BHUYAN: Sir, she has withdrawn this question.

\*373. [The questioner (Shrimati Pushpalata Das) was absent.]