

SHRI S MAHANTY: Can the hon. Minister indicate if this project was started earlier than the N.E.P.A. Paper Mills?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The timing I must verify. I do not remember.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May we know the reasons why the N.E.P.A. Paper Mills to which the Government of India have made considerable contribution in the shape of loan has not gone into production?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a different question altogether.

I think Members of Parliament should be subjected to audition tests!

MECHANICAL APPLIANCE USED IN *Bidi*
MAKING

*370. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some 'Mechanical Appliance' is being introduced in *bidi* making, which would throw out of employment $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the present number of workers engaged in *bidi* making in the country; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to prevent this unemployment?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) Government are aware that some mechanical appliance has been invented for *bidi* making.

(b) When the matter came to the notice of the Government of India, they informed the State Governments concerned that as the appliance might mean the throwing out of employment of a large number of workers engaged

in *bidi* making, the manufacture of such appliance should be discouraged. Other measures to restrict the use of this appliance are also under consideration.

9 A.M.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: How is it going to be discouraged?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, the Government is investigating the methods that they can adopt with a view to discouraging the manufacture and the use of such machinery

SHRI L. H. DOSHI: Will not the manufacture of this machinery encourage employment?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It is also true that there are a much larger number of people already in employment in the *bidi* making industry who will be thrown out of employment.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know what has been the response of the State Governments to the directions given by the hon. Minister?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, there has been no time for the State Governments.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Are representations received from the manufacturers of *bidis* all over the country?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It is difficult to say. We have had one or two manufacturers making representations in this regard.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: In what State was this mechanical appliance invented?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: There are two—one from U. P. and the other from Bombay.

SHRI L. H. DOSHI: Has the Government any figures regarding man-hours required for the manufacture of these appliances?

SHRI T T KRISHNAMACHARI
No, Sir. The Government have not applied their mind to that.

SHRI L H DOSHI: Do they want to discourage the manufacture of this appliance without getting any definite figures of man-hours required?

SHRI T T KRISHNAMACHARI: That is the idea.

SHRI B K P SINHA: Is it the policy of the Government of India to prevent the growth of unemployment by prohibiting technological advance?

SHRI T T KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, in this particular case there is after all no *ad hoc* proposition like preventing the growth of technological development. Here is a case where we are told that a very large mass of people are employed. In every town there are about 11,000 to 12,000 or 13,000 people—and sometimes more—who are employed as *bidri*-makers. It is very difficult, Sir, if there is a shift in employment, for the Government to find employment for those people. We do find that in this particular case we should retard the use of machinery and it is a policy which the Government is committed to and they propose to implement that policy.

SHRI L H DOSHI: What is the production by means of this plant per unit?

SHRI T T KRISHNAMACHARI: It has not gone into production on any large scale.

SHRI D NARAYAN: Cannot the Government ban the manufacture of this machinery?

SHRI T T KRISHNAMACHARI: The whole matter is under consideration. The fact really is that the Central Government can only interfere where it is a scheduled industry. The *bidri* industry is not a scheduled industry. Therefore the problem is in the sphere of the State Administrations. There are one or two methods by which the Central Government

discourage the use of machinery. In the meantime we are exploring the possibility of State co-operation. So the whole matter is under consideration.

DR P C MITRA: Are the Government prepared to impose a heavy duty in order to discourage it?

SHRI T T KRISHNAMACHARI: It is a suggestion for action.

MR CHAIRMAN: Yes. No answer need be given.

SPECIAL BRANCH SET UP TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS FROM INDUSTRIES

371 SHRI B C GHOSE: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether a special branch has been set up in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to deal with complaints against industries, and

(b) if so—

(i) when it was set up,

(ii) what are its specific objects and the nature of complaints it will entertain,

(iii) whether any complaints have so far been received from the public and if so, their nature,

(iv) whether any investigations have been undertaken by it, and if so, their nature, and

(v) the cost to be incurred for maintaining this special branch?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T T KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) (i) In June 1953.

(ii) To ensure more expeditious investigation into complaints against industries which enjoy a sheltered market in India—either due to tariff protection or import restrictions in force. Attention is invited to the Press