

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta.

**CONCERNS PRODUCING MOTOR VEHICLE BATTERIES**

\*220. SHRI B. GUPTA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of concerns producing motor vehicle batteries in India and their total annual production;

(b) the names of such concerns in which foreigners hold their shares; and their total annual output;

(c) whether it is a fact that indigenous producers of motor vehicle batteries are facing a crisis; and

(d) whether Government have received any representation from the indigenous producers of motor vehicle batteries for protection against foreign capital operating in this industry in India?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) :  
(a) There are 14 factories with modern equipment. They produced 165,272 batteries in 1952.

(b) It is presumed that four concerns might come under this category. They are Associated Battery Makers (E) Ltd., Calcutta; Oldham & Son (I) Ltd., Madras; Free India Dry Accumulator Ltd., Calcutta; and General Motors (I) Ltd., Bombay. The total production of these concerns in 1952 was 95,265 batteries.

(c) All the 14 are indigenous producers. Some of them have curtailed their production owing to a fall in demand.

(d) Representations are generally received from all concerns against the new entrants into the industry.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Tariff Board had made any recommendation for the protection of indigenous firms as early as 1947. If so, what action has been taken on that?

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SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Motor vehicle battery industry is protected since 4th November 1948. With effect from that date the standard rate of duty was raised from 50 per cent. to 87½ per cent. The protection was in force till 31st December 1952. In 1952 after review of the industry by the Tariff Commission, the standard rate of duty was lowered to 45½ per cent, with effect from 2nd August 1952. This protection will remain in force till 31st December 1955.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if the Tariff Commission made any recommendations for protection against competition by the foreign concerns operating in India?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Foreign competition in India? I cannot understand it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Competition from companies which are foreign-owned and which are operating in India."

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I understand that the Tariff Commission's duties more or less are confined to giving protection against the competition that comes from overseas from outside the country.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if it is the Government's policy not to make any discrimination between indigenous firms and foreign firms operating in India?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Any firm that we allow to operate in India is classed as an indigenous producer.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if the Government is aware that foreign firms are working multiple shifts when the indigenous firms are all on the point of closing down?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am unable to accept the presumption behind that question.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if it is possible to evolve a method

which, while protecting Indian firms, will give no protection to foreign firms?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The hon. member must know that the Tariff Commission can only protect people who are within the country against imports. They cannot protect firms against other firms in the country.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that at present the indigenous batteries do not last even for three months?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I wish it were so, because in that case the demand for batteries would have increased, and production will increase. It does not seem to have increased.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Does the Government propose to set up any other Commission which will give protection to indigenous industries against foreign industries operating in India?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: There must be a change of Government for proposals of this nature to be entertained.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Change of Government?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: When does he propose to have a change of Government?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: When the hon. member makes adequate preparations for that purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

##### SOIL EROSION

\*214. SHRI CHANNA REDDY: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to pre-

vent the danger of soil erosion in India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : Studies of certain river catchments have been made and proposals are under consideration. As regards the general question of soil erosion and conservation attention is invited to Chapter XXII of the Five Year Plan.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

##### UNION DUTIES OF EXCISE (DISTRIBUTION) BILL, 1953

SECRETARY: I have to report to the Council the following message received from the House of the People, signed by the Secretary to the House:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Bill, 1953, which has been passed by the House at its sitting held on the 3rd March, 1953.

The Speaker has certified that the Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### NOTIFICATIONS

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers as required by sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952: —

1. Notification No. 35/23/51/F. (C.C.R.A./4), dated th<sup>o</sup> 29th December 1952.