

जमालपुर के कारीगरों ने रेलवे के टिकट छापने वाली मशीन भी बनाकर तैयार कर दी है। वहां पर जो नौजवान कारीगरों को, जो अप्रेंटिस बहाल होते थे, चार साल की अप्रेंटिसशिप दी जाती है। उनको रिडक्शन की वजह से नौकरी में बहाल नहीं किया जाता है और अप्रेंटिस ही प्रशिक्षण के लिये जाते हैं। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि भविष्य में लोगों को काम मिलता रहे और हमारे यहां नये नये कारीगर तैयार होते रहें, इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए वहां पर वे नये काम शुरू करने की योजना कर रहे हैं या नहीं।

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, we have already made an assessment in the year 1967 about the decline in the holdings of the steam locomotives and how to face that problem. As I have already stated, we have also introduced a ban on recruitment; thus there is no question of retrenchment. But by the usual process of natural attrition which we calculate to be about 3 per cent, per year, the ultimate requirement of manpower at the Jamalpur Workshop in 1971 would be to the tune of about 5,800. And we have sufficient work for them and, as I have already stated, we have already taken in hand the manufacture of various other items and any other item which the hon. Member is mentioning, if it is found necessary, that also we will consider.

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह माना है कि वहां पर लोग बेकार हो जायेंगे, लेकिन उन बेकारों की खपत किस प्रकार से की जायेगी, यह बात स्पष्ट रूप से सामने नहीं आई है ?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, there is no question of retrenchment there. As for the reduction in the workforce that has taken place, that is only because of the natural attrition that has taken place. There is no possibility of retrenchment.

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Arising out of this question, I am reminded of the reported removal of the Diesel Engine Workshop from Gandhidham to somewhere else. May I know if my information is correct and, if it is correct, why it is so?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : I do not know it. As far as I know, there is no such proposal, Sir.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : There is going to be a progressive use of electric locomotives and diesel locomotives and" this creates a great number of unemployed persons, for example, unemployment in the workshops which has been referred to just now. Apart from this unemployment, it would create unemployment among other categories of workers also, like firemen. As you know, there was great discontent among the firemen and they had resorted to strike in the Southern Railway. So I would like to know from the Government whether they have considered all these problems arising out of the progressive use of diesel and electric locomotives and, if so, whether they have evolved any policy to avert the adverse effects of unemployment on the other categories of workers.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, the problem of firemen in the Southern Railway and South Central Railway is entirely a different one. That arose because of the Hours of Employment Regulations; that also we have modified and that matter is still under our further consideration. Regarding the general question of unemployment, . .

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : Unemployment due to the use of diesel and electric locomotives.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, there has been no unemployment or retrenchment because of dieselisation and electrification.

MISUSE OF IMPORT LICENCES

*643 SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaints about the misuse of import licences by some firms during the last five years;

(b) if so, the names of the firms against whom the complaints have been received; and

(c) the results of the investigations conducted by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : यह जो लाइसेंस के बारे में मैंने पूछा है उस में यह भी पूछा है कि गवर्नमेंट के पास कितनी टोटल में शिकायतें आयी हैं। तो यदि शिकायतों का टोटल बता सकें तो अच्छा रहेगा।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : माननीय सदस्य को मालूम है कि पिछले पांच साल के बारे में उन्होंने इत्तला मांगी है और इस के लिये पोर्ट अथॉरिटीज से और जे०सी०सी० आफिस से पता लगाना पड़ेगा तभी यह इंफार्मेशन कंपाइल हो सकती है।

श्री चन्द्र शेखर : महोदय, मुझे इस बात पर आश्चर्य है कि जब भी कोई प्रश्न पूछा जाता है तो मंत्री महोदय यह कहते हैं कि सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन के मंत्रालय में कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था है कि जो शिकायतें आयें वह कहीं पर दर्ज की जायें और अगर वह दर्ज की जाती हैं तो क्या उन का कोई रजिस्टर रखा जाता है या नहीं रखा जाता है या शिकायतें रद्दी की टोकरी में फेंक दी जाती हैं। और जब कोई पूछता है तो उन को ढूँढने में भी दो, ढाई वर्ष लग जाते हैं। और क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से जान सकता हूँ कि एक शिकायत इम्पोर्ट लाइसेंस के बारे में, आयात का जो लाइसेंस होता है उस के बारे में मैंने पूछी थी जिस में फर्म के लेटर की टू. कापी, ओरिजिनल कापी भेजी थी। क्या उस की भी कोई जांच हुई? उसे दिये हुए करीब मुझे साल भर हो रहे हैं, यदि जांच हुई तो उस का क्या परिणाम निकला ?

श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : जहाँ तक मेम्बरान की चिट्ठियों का या उन की शिकायतों का ताल्लुक है हम बड़ी इज्जत करते हैं कि अगर कोई मेम्बर इस तरह की इत्तला दे। लेकिन इस में जरूरी

यह है कि जब भी कोई शिकायत हो तो जब तक उस की पूरी तरह जांच पड़ताल न की जाय, कोई बात उस बारे में कही नहीं जा सकती। क्योंकि आप एक खत लिख देते हैं, उस में एक शिकायत होती है लेकिन उस का ताल्लुक दस, पंद्रह दफ्तरों से होता है। तो जब तक सब जगहों से इंफार्मेशन न आये, मुमकिन नहीं होता कि कार्यवाही की जाय। माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात हम से कही थी उस की वाक्यादा जांच पड़ताल हो रही है और जांच पड़ताल होने के बाद उन्हें सूचित किया जायेगा।

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I would like to know about one information from the Minister. What are those 15 offices from which he will have to enquire about this one complaint? When I give the specific complaint with the file number, fetter number and the date of the licence as well as the licence number, where is the necessity for going to 15 offices? One office can give the details about that. I am not an expert but I am sure the import licences are dealt with not in 15 offices but in one office only. May I know the list of those 15 offices from which the information has to be collected? He can give at least 5 or 6, if not all the 15.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Whenever there is any complaint with regard to any misuse of import licence, naturally the matter pertains to the Ministry of Commerce. Then it goes to the CCI, and then he has to make enquiries from the Port authorities as well as the Customs authorities. All this is linked up. Then you have to go to the banks. Then the parties are involved and they may be 10 or fifteen.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : This is a patent example. As myself and my colleague Mr. Krishan Kant have informed you, the Government does not do the home work. Here is an important question raised and the Government should have cooperated with this august House by giving at least some information. Is the Government not aware that the Sarkar Committee which enquired about the Aminchand Pyarelal company has brought out the patent example of blackmarketing in import licence? Why should the Government not come forward and state the infor-

mation in the case of Aminchand Pyarelal company and Fedco of Bombay? Why is the Government not cooperating with the House by giving the information already in their possession?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : There is no question of our not giving any information to the House. We have always endeavoured to give every possible information that is available to us. As my colleague pointed out, the Member had asked a specific question about the complaint we have received in the five years. I am sure you will agree that when a specific question is asked, it would not be desirable for us to give incomplete answer to the House. As has been pointed out, when there is a question asked, if the full information is not available, then we collect the information and place it on the Table of the House and the Members will get an opportunity to discuss it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : This is a very agonising experience. The hon. Member, Shri Kulkarni, has referred to the Sarkar Committee. I give one instance of how the Government collect's information. The PAC wanted to get information about the import licences of steel. They said it would at least take 6 months. I was one of the Members, and I am not revealing any secret because the report is already out, and I asked the Attorney General whether he could help to get the information within 7 days. He said : 'I can get it within 5 days if the Government cooperates.' He sent his man and then the report came that most of the files were not maintained, there was no list of import licences, the records were not kept and in most of the cases the Government officers failed to produce the files. The problem is that whether it is the Commerce Ministry or the Steel Ministry or any other Ministry, *when any question about the misdeeds of big business and about importers is asked, always the files are missing and the Ministers are helpless creatures because they do not get any cooperation from the Department'. I request you to appoint a Committee of two men and as a humble Member of the House I say that the information can be collected within 3 days if the Minister allows me to have the files of the Commerce Ministry but the whole difficulty is that the Minister comes and tells us that the information is being collected. Even

after a month this helplessness on the part of the Minister is most regrettable and at least during the Question Hour you should give some direction that when there is fifteen days' notice, the officers should be prevailed upon by these poor Ministers to give the necessary information. Why should they feel helpless in giving the information?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. Is it proper for Mr. Chandra Shekhar to call Raja Dinesh Singh a poor Minister?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I did not call him poor but I said about the Ministry.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHARAN : What steps have been taken in the matter of requests for import licences which are deliberately made by private firms for seeing that the price of indigenous products are kept at a lower level? For example, requests are made every year by the big tyre manufacturers and rubber manufacturing companies for import of rubber when there is sufficient rubber in this country. I would like to know whether in such circumstances, when there is enough goods in the country produced, it is the policy of the Government to allow import licences to be issued?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : As regards the issue of import licences, every care is taken to see that wherever goods are produced indigenously, no imports are allowed. The DGTD scrutinises every application for import. My friend raised the question of rubber. We have stopped import of rubber since last year. We are not importing any rubber at this stage but there is a gap between our supply and consumption. So as and when the Government feel the necessity to import some quantity of rubber it has to take into consideration two facts, one, that the indigenous price of rubber does not get depressed and two, with variations in production and consumption the prices of rubber do not go up. All these factors are being taken into consideration whenever any application is received by the Government for importing more rubber.

DR. ANUP SINGH : Will the Minister of Commerce tell us how many individuals or parties have been given any punishment for misusing licences deliberately during the last five years

and what has been the nature of the punishment?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI:

This is exactly the same question as the hon. Member, Mr. Khaitan's—the main question—and the written answer has been given there.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA-GOPALAN) : Sir, this is a Starred Question and ten days' clear time is given for the Ministers to collect the necessary information, and as pointed out by Mr. Chandra Shekhar, if they only considered contacting the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and asking him, "Give us the details; this is the question and we want the information", they could have very well got the information within four days. Does that mean, I would like to ask. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : That has been debated already. You please put your question.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA-GOPALAN) : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is no coordination between the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and the Ministry, whether the Ministry, does not get in touch with that organisation or whether the Ministry purposely avoids such contacts and avoids collecting such information.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : There is absolute coordination and we are in constant touch; it is part of the Ministry of Commerce.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question. TENNIS BALLS

*644. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. who have the requisite capacity for producing enough tennis balls to meet the needs of the country have not been able to produce tennis balls in adequate quantity due to the shortage of imported melton cloth;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have not been granted necessary import licence for importing melton cloth; and

(c) whether a proposal to allow a British firm to manufacture tennis balls in India is under Government's consideration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Messrs Indian Rubber Manufacturers Ltd., have been allowed imports of melton cloth according to the availability of foreign exchange. Although progressively increased amounts of free foreign exchange were provided for the import of melton cloth year after year, within the overall value of the firm's raw material import licences, their production of tennis balls has been showing a decline.

(c) Application submitted by M/s. Dunlop India Ltd. for an industrial licence for the manufacture of tennis balls is under consideration.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has gone into the causes why production of tennis balls has been declining from year 20 year? Is it because the manufacturers does not have the capacity to produce, or is it because the raw material required for producing the balls is not available to them, and if it is due to the non-availability of the raw material, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is in the interests of the country to give them import licence for melton cloth, or is it in the interests of the country to ask their collaborator to come and open a branch of their own and use as much foreign exchange and repatriate as much of the Indian money as is possible for them to do so? What is the policy of the Government of India in this connection? Is it to encourage the Indian industry or is it to place as many impediments as possible on behalf of the Government to see that the Indian industry is throttled?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : A number of questions have been raised by the hon. Member. I would like to point out that Messrs Indian Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. were first of all given a licence in 1954 for about 24,000 dozens of balls, and again in 1959 they were given another licence for 75,000 dozens of balls. So altogether they held a licence corresponding to a capacity of 99,000 dozens of balls,