

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know the nature of the concession granted for the articles imported?

Shri Kanungo: There is no concession. Only from certain destinations near about the Persian Gulf and India certain commodities are allowed to be imported by sailing vessels.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will they get import licences?

Shri Kanungo: They are not expected to get import licences, but there are quantitative limitations.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement I find that the total imported value is Rs 1.12 crores during April to December 1958. May I know what is the corresponding figure for this year and whether this concession has resulted in increased imports?

Shri Kanungo: I have not got the exact figures, but it has not increased. It has been restricted more or less.

Shri Tangamani rose—

Mr. Speaker: It has not increased the imports. That is what the hon. Member wanted and it has been answered. What more does he want? Next question.

Coir Industry in Orissa

*2220. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1453 on the 22nd September, 1958 and state

(a) whether the proposal for starting Training-cum-Production centres for the development of coir industry at Sakhigopal in Puri District and at Gopalpur in Ganjam district in Orissa has been examined, and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Central Government have accorded technical approval to the scheme.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know how many such training-cum-production centres for development of the coir industry in Orissa have been sanctioned and how many of them have been established?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Two have been sanctioned and they will train about 80 boys.

Shri Panigrahi: What is the total financial assistance given so far to Orissa for development of coir industry and what is the amount proposed to be given in the next two years of the Plan?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The list is a bit long. In 1956-57, it was Rs 11,625, in 1957-58 it was Rs 12,900. In 1958-59, it is going to be about Rs 18,000.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the State Government has been giving matching contribution?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, in some schemes it is fifty-fifty, in some schemes, they are outright grants from the Centre.

Forged Passports

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 { **Shri Nagi Reddy.**
Shri A. K. Gopalan.
Shri Kunhan:
 *2221. { **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shri Parulekar:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 9 on the 10th February, 1959 and state

(a) whether the investigations regarding the forged passports have since been completed, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Investigations have been completed and the case is being tried before a court of law but, for obvious reasons, detailed information about the results of the investigations cannot be revealed at this stage.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that the persons with forged passports have been transferring money through certain foreign companies like Air France and Air Swiss from India to outside countries for them to collect when they go out?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The question has been answered on a previous occasion.

Shri Nagi Reddy: On the previous occasion, we were told that it is under investigation. That answer has not led us to any conclusion.

Mr. Speaker: Hon Members know that before investigations are started, they may not be in a position to give any information. But if the information is followed up by a case launched in a court of law, it becomes *sub-judice*. Therefore, there is no good putting these questions.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Already it has appeared in the Press that in one case in the Bombay court, one of the accused has already told the court that they have been transferring money through the good offices of Air France and Air Swiss from this country to outside countries, for them to collect when they go there. Therefore, I want to ask, what is the result of the investigation on the basis of the report that has appeared in the Press and as revealed in the court?

Mr. Speaker: Whenever a case is before a court, it is open to the accused or prosecution or the witnesses to make statements in the court; none others, including Parliament, can go into the matter. I am not going to allow questions so far as that matter is concerned.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal

Nehru): As you were pleased to say, there are certain aspects to this question. Now that the hon. Member has drawn attention to this particular aspect, we shall enquire into it.

Shri Nagi Reddy: I would like to know the number of people that have been arrested on the basis of the investigation, whether investigations have been completed and court proceedings have already been taken up.

Mr. Speaker: He has promised to look into it.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The case is in the personal custody of the Chief Commissioner and, therefore, any information we have as a result of the investigations cannot be revealed.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I want to know the number of gazetted officers who are being prosecuted.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Minister any information on this point?

Shri Tangamani: This is the third time information is asked.

Shri Tyagi: May I know. . .

Mr. Speaker: Is there any information on this point?

Shri Tyagi: I am afraid too much of secrecy being observed.

Mr. Speaker: How many gazetted officers are being prosecuted, that does not go into the merits of the case. So, that information can be given to the House if the hon. Minister has got it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not got the information now. But since you were pleased to say, I would personally enquire about it and I shall place before this House what is available.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Last time the Prime Minister told us—this is what he said.

"It has been an industry in Punjab for various reasons".

He gave us only one reason. Could he let us know the other reasons also? In reply to a supplementary he said

this and added there are many other reasons. Could he make us wiser about the other reasons?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The other reasons presumably were making money by unfair means in various ways.

Shri Hem Barua: In reply to a question about the subject that some foreign air companies are indulging in this forged passport trade, the Prime Minister was pleased to state:

"The enquiry is proceeding and they say it is making good progress. We cannot ask them at any rate to supply us odd information about odd parts of it."

Now that the enquiry is completed, may I know whether the Prime Minister would enlighten us whether these foreign air companies are actively co-operating with the international racket operating in forged passport trade?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I rather doubt whether this can be separated from the general evidence in the case in an isolated way. I said something about the foreign air companies on the basis of some information; it will depend on the proof. So, it should await the result of the enquiry.

Shri Narayanankutty Memon: May I know whether on the basis of the loophole that has been disclosed as a result of the investigation in this case Government have taken any steps to tighten up the loopholes so that the trade in forged passports may be prevented in future?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. Government have taken many steps. I cannot give a guarantee that every loophole has been plugged. But I think many steps have been taken. In fact, complaints have come that it has become difficult to get a passport.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if any departmental action has been taken against the officers involved in this case?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: An officer involved in such a thing should be hauled up in a criminal court. It is not a question of departmental action.

Shri Hem Barua: The Prime Minister said on a previous occasion like this:

"Very often whole aircrafts are chartered by these people, that is, by groups or associations or companies, who charter an aircraft sell place to individuals to go there to seek work in the United Kingdom or elsewhere and who often get these forged passports."

May I know whether Government have enquired how these forged passports are made available to these people who charter aircrafts?

Mr. Speaker: That is the subject-matter of enquiry.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Any individual or corporation can charter an aircraft. They can charter an Air India aircraft if they pay the money. It is none of the concern of the company to sit and go into the background and antecedents of the gentlemen who charter it.

Shri Hem Barua: But the Prime Minister was pleased to admit that people go on forged passports. I just want to know how forged passports are made available to these people.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: People who go out, many of them, have real passports; many of them have forged ones. I understand there is tremendous demand for them. People are going to the United Kingdom because it is easy to find work and higher wages. When people want to go they are prepared to take normal passports. When we started putting difficulties in the way of getting normal passports, because we do not want that type of persons to go in large numbers there—they work for a little time and they come back when they do not get a job—social problems arose, they did not know the language there and all that. So, we did not encourage this.

Then, because we did not issue the normal passports easily, the trade in forged passports began. We are not issuing it and the people are prepared to pay large sums of money for a forged passport. But the company chartering an aircraft has nothing to do with it. At any rate, I do not know whether some officials were involved, but the company had nothing to do with it.

**West German Collaboration for
Chemical Plant**

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*2222. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Bibhanti Mishra:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a chemical plant in India with West German collaboration;

(b) if so, whether the negotiations for the proposed plant have been completed,

(c) whether any contract has been signed based upon the negotiations; and

(d) if so, the main features of the contract?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Negotiations are in progress.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether any site has been selected for this plant?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Not yet.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the capacity of the plant?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It will manufacture about 61 basic intermediates valued at Rs 8 crores to 9 crores per year.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it will be in the public sector or the private sector?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It will be in the public sector.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं समझता हूँ कि इस के वास्तव में 100 पी० पी० मशीन साइट होगी ।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : मैं माननीय मेम्बर की इच्छा को समझता हूँ, लेकिन यह सब तो ठीक-ठीक कमेटी तय करेगी ।

श्री बिबूति मिश्र : इस कम्पनी के निर्माण में कुल कितना खर्च पड़ेगा और जर्मनी से कितना भायगा और हमारी सरकार कितना लगावगी ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : इस में करीब 12 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च होगा । उस में से 6 करोड़ की मशीनरी बर्गरह बाहर के डिजाइन पर हमारा ड्रावा हिन्दुस्तान ने बनाते का है और बाकी का हिस्सा जर्मनी और और मुल्को से भायंगा और उस में भी हमारी कांशिश है कि जितनी हमारे यहाँ फ़ैक्ट्रीकट हूँ सके, उतनी की जाये ।

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether any other foreign countries were approached for the chemical plant?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the House is aware, we were negotiating with several countries and ultimately these programmes were approved.

Shri Nagi Reddy: What would be the foreign exchange content for this country? How much foreign exchange would be saved after production starts?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The foreign exchange total will be about Rs. 5-5 crores, of course, the final figures are not available. And the savings will be about Rs 8 to Rs. 9 crores.

**Factory for Manufacture of Flash-
Light**

*2223. Shri Siddananajappa: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a flash light producing factory has been established in Lucknow;

(b) if so, by which firm; and