

why the last meeting was adjourned by about a fortnight?

**Shri Nanda:** I did not follow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Was there any other reason for adjourning the proceedings last time by a fortnight?

**Shri Nanda:** They wanted more time in order to submit more information.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** The hon. Minister stated at the outset that the Committee could not finalise its report because a certain aspect of information obtained from the newspapers was missing. May I know what was that particular aspect which was missing and which has now been considered by the Committee?

**Shri Nanda:** We found later on that the total number of employees of different categories was not precisely stated. Therefore the consequences of the new facts in terms of financial burden could not be precisely worked out.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Has the committee taken note of a very important fact, namely, that the total advertisement revenue of the newspapers was only Rs 5 crores at the time of the Press Commission. It has risen to Rs. 9 crores. Will the journalists get the benefit of the increase in revenue?

**Shri Nanda:** I am not on that committee. The committee will deal with this matter in its own way.

#### Green Tea

- \*2314. { **Shri Anirudh Sinha:**  
**Shri Daljit Singh:**  
**Shri Naval Prabhakar:**  
**Shri Bhakt Darshan:**

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is huge stock of green tea of Kangra Valley and Dehra Dun lying unsold;

(b) if so, the reasons for the slump in green tea; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to find out new and revive the traditional markets for green tea?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 59].

**Shri Anirudh Sinha:** Is it a fact that Afghanistan used to buy 40 per cent of our total production of green tea, but due to vigorous Japanese competition, we have been eliminated from the Afghan market and huge quantities of tea are lying? If so, what steps are being taken by the Government to find a market for the accumulating stocks?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is coming up almost every day. Again and again. Afghanistan is not purchasing.

**Shri Kanungo:** This question has been answered several times. But, I may repeat again that taste of consumption of tea is changing in Afghanistan as it has been changing elsewhere. That means, they are going in more for black tea than green tea. To help our green tea trade, special arrangement has been made with the Afghan Government which would help export certain quantities of our green tea.

श्री दलजीत सिंह: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अफगानिस्तान के साथ जो ट्रेड एग्रीमेंट जुलाई १९५८ में किया गया था उसके बाद अब तक कितनी ग्रीन टी वहाँ भेजी गई है और इसके अलावा किन किन और मुल्को में भेजी जाती है और आगे जमकी मात्रा बढ़ाने के लिए कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

श्री कानूनगो: कितने मुल्को को दी गई है और कितनी गई है, इसका पता अभी तो नहीं है। लेकिन जो स्टॉक स्टेटमेंट में दिया गया है, स्टॉक के हिसाब से, उससे पता चलता है कि कुछ ज्यादा टी अफगानिस्तान में गई है। यह मात्र लेना चाहिये कि आयात

के लिए ग्रीन टी की मांग दुनिया भर में कम हो रही है।

**Shri Hem Raj:** Is it not a fact that green tea has gone out of the market? What steps will the Central Government take to encourage the production of black tea in Kangra and other areas?

**Shri Kanungo:** We are waiting for a scheme by the Punjab Government to have a co-operative factory or any other type of organisation where green tea could be turned into black tea.

**Shri Hem Raj:** What is the central aid which the Government is going to give to the Punjab Government for setting up this factory?

**Shri Kanungo:** When the scheme is prepared, the sharing of expenses will be considered.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Tea Board has approached the Central Government to establish a tea guarantee fund to arrange loans for these units and if so what are the reasons for the delay?

**Shri Kanungo:** No proposal has been received so far.

श्री अक्षय बर्षन : इस विवरण में बताया गया है कि देहरादून के चाय बगीचों की स्थिति सुधारने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाये गये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट के पास देहरादून के चाय बगीचों की सत्था का कोई ज्ञापन यानी मेमोरेडम भेजा है जिसमें यह प्रार्थना की गई है कि "To simplify the taxation policy by levying at one point and more flexible and reasonable controls" और प्रारंभ भेजा है तो इस पर क्या विचार किया गया है या कोई कार्रवाई की गई है?

श्री कानूनगो : देहरादून के चाय बगीचे वालों का रिप्रिजेंटेटिव टी बोर्ड में रहता है और हमेशा इसके बारे में चर्चा होती जहाँ तक टैक्सेशन का सवाल है, यह भाषा

कर दिया गया है। यह तो हमेशा चसता है कि दूसरा जो भाषा है, उसको भी हटा दिया जाए।

**Shri Anirudh Sinha:** Has it come to the notice of the Government that 3 out of a total of 21 tea gardens in Dehra Dun producing green tea have closed down and many more will close down if the Afghan markets are not regained quickly? I want to know what action the Government are taking for rehabilitating this distress in the Dehra Dun District.

**Shri Kanungo:** I have no information that tea gardens have closed down. My figures of stock show that there is no accumulation of stock in Dehra Dun area. As for rehabilitation of green tea industry, it has got to be realised that the world demand for green tea is fast disappearing.

**Shri N. R. Munisamy:** What is the reason behind the ban of export of green tea from Rampur area?

**Shri Kanungo:** There is no ban anywhere.

**Shri Anirudh Sinha:** Is it a fact that last year a Government-sponsored delegation led by the chairman of the Indian Tea Board visited Afghanistan, and if so, have they submitted any report, and if so, what action Government are taking to find out new markets for green tea?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** May I suggest to my colleague the hon. Minister of Commerce to introduce green tea here, so that we may increase the consumption of green tea and hon. Members may have the advantage of green tea?

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Can the Prime Minister put a question to a Minister here in the House?

**Mr Speaker:** Yes.