

Import Licences

1130. Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for incorporating the clause in the licence granted for photographic materials falling under Serial No. 303/Part IV that the goods imported against such licences are to be sold at pre-September, 1957 price-level;

(b) how does this pre-September, clause effect the new brands of materials which were not being imported before September, 1957;

(c) whether new brands imported after September, 1957 could be sold at whatever prices the importers liked;

(d) whether it is a fact that by taking advantage of this clause goods manufactured in the factories of some of the brands imported before September, 1957 are now being imported by some firms other than the appointed agents of the actual manufacturers and sold at very high prices,

(e) how this clause will affect those brands whose prices were low before September, 1957 and a change takes place in the sole agency of the brands;

(f) whether pre-September, 1957 clause has been incorporated in respect of any item other than photographic materials; and

(g) if not, the special reasons for imposing this condition on photographic materials only?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Clause (vii) against S. No. 303/IV has been incorporated in order to ensure that photographic goods are made available by the established importers or their agents at reasonable prices to the retailers and consumers. The prices prevailing prior to September, 1957 have been considered to be reasonable since there was no dearth of these materials at that time.

174 LSD-3.

(b) Government have neither come across any such instance nor any importer has brought to the notice of the Government that in view of this clause they are facing any difficulty in marketing those brands which were not in existence prior to September, 1957

(c) Government have no information about the import of new brands that were not in existence in September, 1957

(d) No information is available on this point

(e) Government have not come across any such instance. Even if the agency has changed hands, the new agents have to sell the goods at the prices prevailing prior to September, 1957

(f) No, Sir

(g) This restriction was imposed in the case of this item on account of the abnormal increase in the selling prices and as pre-September, 1957 prices were considered reasonable.

Irrigation Projects

1131. Shri S. A. Mehdi: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state

(a) whether the Planning Commission has come to any conclusion about the scheme of Shri I. T. Iyenger regarding irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the expenditure involved; and

(c) whether the project has been sanctioned?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): The scheme was examined and copies of it were furnished to the State Governments. They were requested to consider it while formulating their programme of minor irrigation works. Replies received from 12 out of 13 States indicated that most of them were not in favour of it