SHRI PILOO MODY: It may be headed by anybody.

MR. SPEAKER: I will examine this question and I will consult you over it.

Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

12.53 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MEMBER RE. ANSWERS TO S.Q. NO. 631, DATED 10-4-74 ON BRITANNIA BISCUIT CO.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri C. Subramaniam while replying to my S.Q. No. 631 on 10th of April, 1974 stated:—

> "It is true that this Company has produced far beyond the licensed capacity in the Madras unit. Their licensed capacity is 1,200 tonnes for one shift. Even if we take account that they are entitled to go in for three shifts, they can produce round about 3,000 and odd tonnes."

This is grossly incorrect. The Industrial license No. L/27(5)(1)/65-L1(1) dated 15th January, 1965 with its Registration Certificate authorises the factory for a maximum production of 1,200 tonnes per annum. There is no question of single shift involved in it. It is an authority for a total production of 1,200 tonnes per annum.

In the same question in another supplementary, the Minister has given another incorrect information which will be revealed from the following

> "Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu: I asked when the Govt. came to know that they were producing in excess of the installed and licensed capacity to which there has been no reply. What action did they take on the day they received this information that this company is manufacturing in excess of the licensed capacity?"
>
> "Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry, I cannot give the exact date. It was about a year or two ago that this came to our notice when they made an application for the purpose of regularising this excess production".

The truth in the matter is as far back as November, 1970 a joint representation was sent by four Indian Biscuit Manufacturers to Smt. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister pointing out this gross over-production by Britannia Biscuit Company Ltd., a foreign monopoly, giving all facts and figures. On the same day similar representations were sent by the same four Indian Manufacturers to the Minister of Industrial Development, the Minister of Company Affairs, Chairman, MRTPC, Secretary, Industries Ministry and the Senior Industrial Advisor, DGTD.

Again in September, 1972, a representation was sent by an Indian Biscuit manufacturer to Shri C. Subramaniam, the present Industries Minister and also once afterwards in November, 1972 to the Minister giving all facts and figures about Britannia's illegal expansion.

This is not a case of making an incorrect statement, but a glaring instance when the Minister had chosen to deliberately mislead the House in a planned manner by telling so many things most of which were incorrect.

I am holding the document under reference and shall produce the same before the House when they require. I am also told that in the Secretariat of Shri Subramaniam there are people who are anxious to further the cause of the Britannia Biscuit Co.

I may further point out that this is not the first time that the Hon'ble Minister Shri Subramaniam is making incorrect statements. If you will

kindly go through the 55th Report (III Lok Sabha 1966-67) of P.A.C. you will find many instances.

I request that the Minister should state the correct position and indicate the action taken against the Company.

MR. SPEAKER: Please adhere to your statement. Don't add to those things.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Only subtractions; no additions, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: SHRI C. Subramaniam.

13.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Sir, the Hon'ble Member has referred to answers given by me in reply to supplementary questions connected with Starred Question No. 631 regarding the activities of Messrs. Britannia Biscuit Company. The two points to which the Hon'ble Member has referred relate to—

(1) The licensed capacity of Messers. Britannia Biscuit Company; and

(2) The point of time at which the unauthorised expansion of capacity of the Company came to the notice of Government.

As far as the first point is concerned, I had occasion to say clearly that Messers. Britannia Biscuit Company had produced far beyond the licensed capacity of their Madras unit. The emphasis in my reply was clearly on the fact of excessive production in relation to the capacity for which Messrs. Britannia Biscuit Company was licensed. The application was for 100-125 tonnes per month on single shift basis. There is no mention whether it is single shift or not. The license does not mention either one shift or two shifts or three shifts. The license was issued for 1200 tonnes per annum. I had stated that "even if we take into account that they were entitled to go in for three shifts, they can produce round about 3000 and odd tonnes. Their present level of production is round about 9000 tonnes."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Is it true that the company produced far in excess of their licensed capacity? Their licensed capacity is 1200 tonnes for one shift and he had stated that 'even if we take into account that they were entitled to go in for three shifts they can produce round about 3,000 an odd tonnes.' He said that..

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting this word to go on record.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I had thus emphasised the fact of excessive production and added that we were examining the action to be taken against the Company.

As far as the second point is concerned, I made it quite clear that I did not remember the exact date. I spoke from memory when I mentioned that the fact that Messrs. Britannia Biscuit Company were manufacturing biscuits in excess of their licensed capacity came to the notice of the Ministry about a year or two ago. The hon. Member himself mentioned to me that the petitions were presented in September and November, 1972.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: In November 1970 a joint representation was sent to the Minister of Industrial Development. It was sent in November, 1970 and not in 1972.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go on commenting on that when he is speaking. I wonder how you seek my protection when somebody speaks. And why do you do it in your own case? Please sit down and remain seated.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In reply to supplementary questions I

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

made it clear in the House that the application for regularisation of capacity made by Messers Britannia Biscuit Company had been rejected and that Government was examining the action to be taken in respect of the violation of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act.

In the circumstances, I would respectfully submit to the House that there was no attempt to suppress any information available to the Ministry or, in any manner to mislead the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, he has again misled the House. Firstly, the representation was received in 1970 and not in 1972. I have with me the licence, and I will lay it on the Table of the House, which says that the licence is for a total of 200 tonnes per annum. Here again, the hon. Minister has misled the House.**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing. Please sit down. This will not go on record. You are not permitted to make such observations. I have not permitted you to speak. This will not form part of the record. Please sit down.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है। यह डाइरेक्शन 115 का जो मामला है, जब मंत्री के द्वारा गलत बयानी की जाती है तो आप सदस्यों को मौका देते हैं स्पष्टीकरण करने का लेकिन उसके बाद आपको चाहिए कि वास्तव में जो गलतबयानी हुई है क्या उसको मंत्री महोदय ने सुधारा है या नहीं, इस तरह से तो कोई स्पष्टीकरण होता नहीं है, सदन का समय बरबाद होता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसका तो प्रोसीजर है। मैं उनके पास भेज देता हूं।

श्री मधु लिमये : कोई बात स्पष्ट नहीं हुई है। 115 का मखौल बन गया है। यह मंत्री जी को बचाने का सिलसिला चल चल रहा है।

MR. SPEAKER: I gave a chance to both of them to speak.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष जी, आप मेम्बर से कहते हैं कि प्रश्न उठायें और मंत्रीजी कहते हैं कि जवाब दें लेकिन इसका निर्णय कौन करेगा कि मंत्री महोदय ने सचमुच में सदन को गुमराह किया था या नहीं? मंत्री जी के द्वारा दिया गया जवाब ठीक है या नहीं यह भी आपको देखना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसका एक प्रोसीजर है।

I refer it under 115.

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र (बेगुसराय) : 115 के अन्तर्गत कोई माननीय सदस्य वक्तव्य दें, उसका जवाब मिले और दोनों को मिलाकर अगर असंगतियां या कंट्राडिक्शन हो तो फिर उस बात को ला सकते हैं, उसमें कोई रोक नहीं है।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसका कोई फैसला होगा या ऐसे ही चलता रहेगा?

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection, but the procedure cannot be changed so easily.

13.05 hrs.

MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received Notices of Motions of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers under rule 198 from:—Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu; Shri

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**Not recorded.