

(a) whether it is a fact that the brother-in-law of a Senior Army Officer of the General Stores, Delhi (Defence Department) has been associated with several firms which supply defence stores to the Defence Department;

(b) if so, the names of the firms, period of the officer's relation's association with these firms and value of the defence orders placed with these firms during his period of association;

(c) whether this Army Officer disclosed the fact of his brother-in-law's association with these firms and if so, when;

(d) whether this officer has been accused of taking undue interest or bringing to bear undue influence in getting orders for the firms with which his brother-in-law is connected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) (c). In May 1963 an officer of the Directorate of Inspection, General Stores Department of Defence Production, declared that his brother-in-law had joined M's. Delhi Small Scale Industries. On 12th January 1967 the officer declared that his brother-in-law was Proprietor of M's. Beejay Industries who were engaged in the supply of an item to the Defence Department. On 4th December 1967 the officer declared that his brother-in-law was associated as a partner with M/s. L.D. Malhotra Industries, Delhi who had defence contracts. The period of association of the officer's relation with the firms is not known to Government. This information and the value of orders placed on the firms is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) and (e). The S.P.E. Delhi have registered a case against the officer in connection with an order placed on M/s L.D. Malhotra & Co., Delhi. The case is being processed in accordance with the Army Act.

Supply of Defence Stores to Defence Department

8233. ✓ SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Small Scale Industries 32, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-20 and their associate firms have been supplying defence stores for the Defence Department;

(b) if so, for how many years and the approximate value of the stores so far supplied by them;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government Department Public Accounts Committee of Parliament have made adverse reports against these firms for their having supplied sub-standard material in violation of the contracts, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any general black listing order has been passed against these firms, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12 hrs.

Re: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I would like to make only one submission regarding this Calling Attention Notice. The name of Shri Jyotirmoy Basu is fifth in the list of names for this Calling Attention Notice. He is in Tihar Jail now. This is the first time that a Member has been sentenced to imprisonment for ten days when the House is in session.

MR. SPEAKER: This list was printed earlier to his conviction. When this was admitted we did not know that he is going to defy some law. How could we know that?

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: They could have fined him and let him off.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REPORTED TALKS BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSIONER RE. RESUMPTION OF TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND OTHER MATTERS

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की और वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

“भारत तथा पाकिस्तान के बीच व्यापार को पुनः आरम्भ करने के बारे में दोनों देशों के उच्चायुक्तों और पश्चिमी बंगाल के मुख्य मन्त्री की कथित वार्ता और कलकत्ते में हुई बैठक में दिये गये महासंघ (कन्फेडरेशन) के सुझाव।”

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): Sir, presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the newspaper reports that the Pakistan High Commissioner, while on a visit to Calcutta, called on the Chief Minister of West Bengal and that during this meeting the question of resumption of trade between India and Pakistan was also discussed. The call by the High Commissioner was a courtesy call in which the question of resumption of trade between the two countries also came up in a general way. The West Bengal Government leaders mentioned to the High Commissioner that they would welcome normalisation of relations between the two countries but it was a matter under the purview of the Central Government.

2. The Government's views on the resumption of trade between India and Pakistan are a well known. We removed the ban on trade with Pakistan as far back as May, 1966. The Government of Pakistan has not reciprocated and trade with India continues to be banned in Pakistan. We have, on a number of occasions, raised through diplomatic channels the desirability of resuming trade between the two countries but the Government of Pakistan have not responded.

3. So far as the statements made at a meeting in Calcutta on April 26 in favour of an Indo-Pak Confederation are concerned, it is an entirely different subject from the one I have just dealt with. We have seen newspaper reports of the Calcutta meeting at which some speakers, including some Members of Parliament, spoke in favour of a Confederation of India and Pakistan in the larger interest of peace and progress. These Speakers were expressing their own views and did not represent the views of the Government. While it is the policy of the Government of India to improve and develop co-operative relations with Pakistan we are not seeking confederation between the two countries.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह स्वीकार करता हूँ कि विदेशी राजदूत हमारे देश के नेताओं व राज्यों के मुख्य मन्त्रियों के पास कर्टसी कौल भी करते हैं परन्तु इसे महज कर्टसी कौल करना यह ओवर सिम्पलीफिकेशन होगा। अभी मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि हम पाकिस्तान के साथ व्यापार की बातचीत करना चाहते हैं लेकिन पाकिस्तान हमारे साथ व्यापार नहीं करता है। यह व्यापार, फरका बराज और बाऊन्डरी डिस्पूट यह जो तीन बातें कही गई हैं तो यह तीनों विषय केन्द्रीय सरकार के हैं। पाकिस्तान की सरकार केन्द्र के साथ व्यापार के बारे में बातचीत नहीं करना चाहती है लेकिन बंगाल के मुख्य मन्त्री के साथ बातचीत करना चाहती है और उसके बाद भी मन्त्री महोदय कहते हैं कि यह कर्टसी कौल है। यह ओवर सिम्पलीफिकेशन है और यह बहुत चिन्ता की बात है।

MR. SPEAKER: That is your view.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: That is my view.

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा कहना यह है कि जो यह बातचीत की गई है और खास तौर से पाकिस्तान हाई कमिश्नर ने डिप्लोमैटिक कन्वेंशन को तोड़ दिया है, एक प्रोपराइटी को भी खत्म कर दिया तो यह बहुत चिन्ता का विषय है। यह बहुत मिस्चीवियस भ्रूव है।