

of definition and whether this matter will be reviewed by the National Committee?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: While identifying the industrially backward areas and the other backward areas, two committees worked on them, which were appointed by the Planning Commission in the past. Now, it was felt afterwards i.e. recently that there is need for reviewing the impact of the subsidies on the development areas and that this National Committee on the development of Backward Areas was set up and this Committee is working on this and the issue raised by you is indirectly a part of the terms of reference and we are expecting the Report of this Committee by the end of this year. It would be after that that we shall be able to review the whole thing.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: In most of the backward areas, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people reside. I would like to know whether the Government and the public undertakings will undertake the responsibility for developing industries in backward areas?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Yes, Sir.

Agreement with USSR for Supply of Paper

*764. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between the U.S.S.R. and India regarding the supply of writing and printing paper in order to fulfil the requirements of educational field;

(b) if so, what are the details regarding its progress;

(c) whether the Soviet Union have been successful in meeting the demands; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the quantity and the foreign exchange involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (d). A working programme of co-operation in the field of the pulp and paper industry has been drawn up between India and the USSR. The programme, *inter-alia*, provides for possibilities of mutual exchange of pulp and paper products and other materials on mutually agreed basis. Details of such supplies are yet to be worked out by both sides, after determining requirements

SHRI K. PRADHANI: In view of the fact that USSR was the second largest supplier of paper to India during 1978-79 at a considerably cheaper rate, I welcome the idea of importing more paper from USSR. But at the same time, as it involves expenditure of foreign exchange, may I know whether the Government propose to improve the utilisation capacity of the existing paper mills depending on bamboos and secondly, as the bamboo forests are limited in India, may I know whether the Government propose to set up some new factories depending on agricultural residues like straw and bagasse?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: My reply to both the questions is 'yes'.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: There were some press reports during last month that some 50,000 tonnes of paper imported from outside were kept in Hindustan Paper Corporation godowns without being distributed to the consumers. May I know whether it is correct and if so, why this paper was lying in godowns when there was scarcity of paper in the country and the price was rising?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The question is very relevant, but the information which appeared in the newspapers is not correct, because the quantity of paper which landed at

various Indian ports upto 30th June, 1980 was 38,800 tonnes. The estimated sales upto 30th June, 1980 were 30,200 tonnes. The quantity in transit or at various ports as on 30th June, 1980 was 8600 tonnes. These are also either in transit or are being allotted to the applicants.

श्री राम नगोना मिश्र : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा—जहां बग़ास अधिक होता है, आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि वहां पेपर मिल बैठाई जा सकती है। देवरिया जनपद में 14 चीनी मिलें हैं और वहां बग़ास अधिक मात्रा में मिलता है। यह क्षेत्र नेपाल की सरहद पर है, वहां बाँस भी मिलता है। क्या आप कोई सरकारी पेपर मिल देवरिया जिले में बैठाने की कोशिश करेंगे?

श्री चरणजीत चानना : सभापति जी, थयोरै-टिकली तो माननीय सदस्य की बात ठीक है, लेकिन जहां तक बग़ास का सम्बन्ध है, जहां बग़ास लगी हुई है, वहां शुगर मिलें बग़ास को फ़ायुअल की तरह से इस्तेमाल करती हैं। परमों हमारे पास ताम्रनाडु के चीफ़ मिनिस्टर आये थे और वह भी यही कह रहे थे, लेकिन बग़ास का जो आल्टरनेटिव फ़्यूल कोल होगा, उसकी उनको तीन हजार टन कोल की आवश्यकता है। अगर कोई बग़ास पर पेपर मिल एस्टेब्लिश कर सकता है तो हम उसको वेलकम करेंगे। लेकिन बग़ास पेपर मिल के लिए उसका जो सोर्स फ़्यूल है वह अवेलेबल नहीं है। लेकिन अगर कहीं भी वह फ़िजिबल हो तो उसको हम वेलकम करेंगे।

श्री राम नगोना मिश्र : मैंने माननीय मंत्री जी से यह स्पष्ट सवाल किया था कि देवरिया में बग़ास की बहुतायत है। क्या वहां सरकार सरकारी स्तर पर कोई पेपर मिल खोलने का विचार कर रही है? इसका जवाब मुझे नहीं मिला है।

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I have brought to the kind notice of the hon Member that unless and until the economics of the use of bagasse as raw material for paper are worked out in detail, it is very difficult to reply to his question.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी, देश में कागज की कमी का आलम यह है कि बच्चों को पढ़ाई-लिखाई के लिए भी कागज नहीं मिल रहा है, कापियां नहीं मिल रही हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि कागज की इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए, अपने देश में कागज बनाने के लिए क्या सरकार ने सोवियत रूस के अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य देश के साथ भी कागज के आयात के लिए कोई करार किया है? अगर किया है तो उसका ब्यौरा?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I would be able to tell the hon. Member about the countries from which imports were contracted. These are: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, Japan, Rumania and Hungary. As for the quantum of import from these countries, I shall lay the information on the Table of the House.

HAL's proposals for new Aircraft Production

*766. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether the AN 32 Soviet Type aircraft and the British type Coastguarder Avro Craft is being planned for manufacture at HAL from 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): No, Sir.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: It is a very surprising answer. According to the HAC—they have gone to the press and said—although they are manufacturing at present HS 748 for the Air Force and the Indian Airlines, both the Air Force and the Indian Airlines have changed their requirements and they do not want any more Avros. As such, HAL has decided to phase out the production of this aircraft within a year or two. And only 21 aircrafts which are in the production line will be the final lot which they are going to manufacture. In such an event, what is the projection and planning of HAL for future manufacturing?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: The hon Member has mentioned about the phasing out of the Avro. This is quite true but this is not being phased out right away. It is going to be phased out by 1982-83 and the HAL Division of Kanpur has been looking into this aspect. The Government have been evaluating certain aircraft for three types of needs. One is METAC meaning medium tactical transport aircraft; second is piston-engined aircraft for