

MR. SPEAKER: That is not relevant to the main question.

SHRI P. GOPALAN: This is related to part (c) of the main question which is a general question.

The granting of scholarships by various American institutions is done directly, and I understand that many of these institutions have already been exposed as CIA agents in some American magazines like the 'Ram-part.....'

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot allow this question. It is not relevant.

SHRI P. GOPALAN: This is a dangerous practice adopted by the American officials to use these scholarships as a means to influence the student community in India....

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot allow it.

SHRI P. GOPALAN: Kindly look at part (c) of the main question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry that I cannot allow it. It is not relevant.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: A professor of the Delhi University, namely Prof. Subhas Chakravarti has brought out a very revealing book under the title *US Facts Speak about Aid and Education*. May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to this booklet, and if so, what the outcome is? This is a published book. This is about infiltration of CIA agents into Delhi University by giving scholarships and creating American stooges amongst university students. How can you overrule this book? It is very relevant. You are as much interested in the welfare of the students in this country as I am. Will the hon. Minister say whether Government knows about this book, and if so, what steps has Government taken to inquire into the facts disclosed in the book? If not, will he get a copy and inquire?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is: 'are Government aware that some officials of the Russian embassy have been spotted befriending students,' not through this book.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR: Kindly see part (c).

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I have mentioned in reply to an earlier question that I will draw the attention of my colleague, the Education Minister, to it, if the hon. member would send me the copy.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: I will lay it on the Table. It is a wonderful document.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he can hand it over to the hon. Minister.

Import of Zinc

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*632. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN:
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import zinc from Poland and other foreign countries;

(b) if so, the quantity of zinc likely to be imported during 1969-70; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Trade Agreements concluded with Poland, USSR, Bulgaria and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea provide for the import of zinc from these countries to the tune of 20,000 metric tonnes during 1969. A similar quantity is expected to be imported from countries like Canada, USA and Japan.

(c) No precise indication can be given in this regard because there

are periodical and country-wise variations in the prices of zinc. However, the amount involved is expected to be of the order of Rs. 9 crores.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Again a big policy matter is involved in this question. Today the papers have reported the Prime Minister as telling some congressmen that the heads of the organisation have not been allowing Government to implement the ten-point programme of economic development. In this background....

MR. SPEAKER: Is it jantar man-tar?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I come to the point now. All these years, Government have not implemented the programme of economic self-sufficiency and have been depending on import of zinc from other countries whereas our country has got huge deposits of it in Udaipur in Rajasthan and in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Why are Government not exploring the possibility of organising our indigenous production of zinc effectively so that we can stop import. In this background, I would like to quote the *Economic Times* which has something very relevant to say on this.

MR. SPEAKER: No. It may be a relevant point, but not a relevant question. He has already taken a couple of minutes in the commentary. It is high time he framed his question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: So, Sir, the collective responsibility must be shared. The question pertains to the Ministry of Foreign Trade but it is a relevant point to mention this. There has been failure on the part of India to organise effectively the exploitation of zinc deposits. This paper says:

"It is unfortunate and highly regrettable that a totally uncalled for controversy should have been generated about the siting of a

zinc smelter at Visakhapatnam based on imported zinc concentrates. This arises from parochial pressure and counter-pressure from two State Governments."

MR. SPEAKER: Should I request you again and again to come out with a precise question. This is not a half an-hour discussion or a debate. It is a question and you should ask a supplementary question relevant to the answer given by the Minister. I request you to be careful in future and not to add further commentaries to your supplementaries.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: What is the price that the foreign countries are asking for zinc? What steps have been taken to explore possibilities of zinc available in the country?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The relevant question is about exports. Production in the country is expected to be 38,000 tonnes this year; it will be the same next year, but in 1972-73 it will go up to 76,000 tonnes. If the Vizag smelter about which a decision has to be taken by the Ministry of Mines and Metals goes into steam in 1973-74, it will go to about a lakh of tonnes. There is shortage of zinc not only here but in the outside world also and we are trying to explore to the fullest possible extent whatever indigenous sources are there.

About the price, it varies from country to country and ranges between Rs. 2,300 and Rs. 2,500 per tonne.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The paper further says:

"Most of the Japanese zinc smelters are located at ports based on imported concentrates. There ores are available not only in Canada from where the Alwaye plant is fed but also in Burma and Iran."

If we want to strengthen our economy, will the Government consider the possibility of financial participation by Iran so that foreign exchange need not be spent on imports?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That is a suggestion and we shall certainly look into that. If that source opens fruitful possibilities and it will also save foreign exchange, certainly it will be explored.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN: This question about zinc has come at a time when the Government is sinking. Today we have a date with destiny. This country was producing zinc as early as 1100 AD and the production of zinc had been hit by allowing imports. The failure of the Government is obvious from the speech of the Chairman of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Jaipur, which is a public undertaking:

"...there has been a temporary glut in the market making it difficult to sell our zinc. Due to large imports of diammonium phosphate..."

While they formulate the import policy do they take into consideration the factor that national industries should be protected? If that consideration is weighing with the Government, why was that consideration not given precedence, while the Government formulated its import policy to import zinc into this country?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: If the question is that the interests of national industries should be borne in mind, while formulating the import programme, then, that is very much taken into consideration. Only after taking into account the national production, and the overall shortage, it is imported.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक़्त जो जिंक हम ले रहे हैं वह क्या बार्टर बेसिस पर ले रहे हैं और क्या भूमी महोदय यह भी बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि हम इस मामले में कब तक सेल्फ-सफिशिएंट हो जायेंगे ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : हम बार्टर बेसिस पर नहीं ले रहे हैं। इसी एरियाज से हम

रूपी अक्राउंट में लेते हैं, कनाडा से हमारा क्रेडिट एग्रीमेंट है उस के मातहत लेते हैं, जापान से येन क्रेडिट के मातहत लेते हैं, यू एस ए से फ्री फारेन एक्चेंज के अनुसार होता है। जहाँ तक सेल्फ सफिशिएंसी का नवाल है, जैसा मैं ने बतलाया चौबीस पंच-वर्षीय योजना में हम एक लाख टन तक बनाने की उम्मीद करते हैं। लेकिन देश में इस की डिमांड ज्यादा से ज्यादा होनी है। इसलिये अभी पूरी मात्रा में हम सेल्फ-सफिशिएंट नहीं हो सकते।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बोहरा : राजस्थान में उदयपुर और उदयपुर के पास जिक का इतना बड़ा भंडार है कि अगर उसे ठीक तरह से इस्तेमाल किया जाय तो हम इस मामले में अपने देश में भी आत्म-निर्भर हो सकते हैं और विदेशी मुद्रा भी बचा सकते हैं। देश को सेल्फ-सफिशिएंट बनाने की दृष्टि से क्या यह उचित नहीं होगा कि हम इस के आयात के बारे में अपने आप को कुछ नियन्त्रित करें। आज मंत्री महोदय न आदि दे रहे हैं कि हमारे यहाँ 38 हजार टन का प्रोडक्शन होता है। हमारे यहाँ पब्लिक सेक्टर में हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड है जिस में 18,000 टन का प्रोडक्शन हो सकता है और कोमिको बिनानी में, जो प्राइवेट सेक्टर में है वहाँ 10,000 टन होता है। इस तरह से कुल मिला कर 28,000 टन होता है। मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि इस मंत्रालय द्वारा विदेशी मुद्रा बचाने का जो प्रयास चल रहा है उस में हमारे यहाँ जो राजकीय उद्योग चल रहे हैं पब्लिक सेक्टर के अन्दर उन को किस प्रकार से हम नियन्त्रित करना चाहते हैं जिस से वह प्रयास सफल हो सके ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : इस मंत्रालय का सम्बन्ध आयात से है। प्रोडक्शन का सम्बन्ध माइन्स एंड मेटल्स मिनिस्ट्री से है। मैं ने बतलाया कि हर कोशिश की

जा रही है और अनुमान है कि इस साल 38,000 टन का प्रोडक्शन होगा।

SHRI R. K. BIRLA: Sir, the hon. Minister just now admitted that the Government is thinking of importing 40,000 tonnes of zinc. In Udaipur, there is a great volume of deposit of the ore. I understand that Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, has written to the Central Government that if encouragement is given to the Udaipur plant, it can definitely meet the demands of the country. In view of this, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister: why are the Government of India thinking of importing concentrates which is also draining the foreign exchange, and why is the Government of India not concentrating on the public undertaking at Udaipur which could meet the entire demand of the country?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: As I said, the production programme is being organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals. There is a non-ferrous metal group which meets every year, and also they take the overall position of the requirements and the demand as against the production, and whatever is to be imported is only decided after taking into account the maximum production that will be available. Whatever is unnecessary is completely cut out, and only what is absolutely essential is imported.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are not co-ordinated.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: There is absolute co-ordination.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा : जस्ते के मामले में सरकार ने किन किन प्रन्तों का सर्वे किया है और क्या राजस्थान का भी सर्वे किया गया है ? अगर किया गया है तो क्या रिपोर्ट मिली है ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Repeatedly, this question is being asked. The details can be given only by the Minister of Mines, because it is a question relating to him.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : जहां तक आयात करने की बात है हम विदेशों में इस चीज को ढूंढते फिरते हैं और आयात के लिये दौड़ते हैं। भीख मांगने के लिये सरकार के लिये दुनिया पड़ी है।

SHRI HEM BARUA: May I know the progress made by Hindustan Zinc Limited after you have made Shri Raghunath Singh the Chairman of that body? After you have made the junk of the electorate as the head of that body, what progress has been made by it?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That question may be addressed to my colleague.

SHRI HEM BARUA: Shri Raghunath Singh, who was defeated and discarded in the last elections, has been made the Chairman of that body. While I am interested in the prosperity of Shri Raghunath Singh, I am also interested in the prosperity of that organisation. I want to know the progress made by this organisation after Shri Raghunath Singh has become its Chairman.

MR. SPEAKER: While the main question is about imports, I am sorry other questions are asked.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The only question is why import?

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Even after we have fully developed the raw material available in Rajasthan and established a plant there, it will be meeting only about 10 to 15 per cent of our requirement. So, we still require the import of zinc from foreign countries. Instead of that, why can't we import the raw material and produce zinc in Visakhapatnam?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

Jute Industry

*633. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tripartite conference on jute industry's labour problems was held in Calcutta in the last week of May, 1969;

(b) if so, the decisions taken in that Conference;

(c) whether implementation of these decisions is further likely to increase the cost of production of jute goods, if so, to what extent; and

(d) the assistance which Government are contemplating to give to the industry in order to help them to meet this increase and to help maintain the position of exports of jute goods in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) to (d). Attention is invited to the statements made by me in this House on the 5th August, 1969, and the 11th August, 1969, regarding the strike in the jute industry.

SHRI HEM BARUA: What is this question going to serve after the settlement of the strike?

SHRI HIMATSINGKA: This was given notice of before the strike ended. Is the Government not satisfied that the Indian jute industry is losing in the world market in competition with Pakistan on account of certain natural advantages that Pakistan jute industry has and on account of the imposition of export duty on jute in India and no export duty in Pakistan? In view thereof, has the Government considered any steps whereby the jute industry in India may revive and get back its competitive position and, if so, what?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We are naturally very much concerned with the competitiveness of our jute products in the world market, particularly in competition with Pakistan. Pakistan has certain natural advantages in the matter of raw materials. Further, it issues special bonus vouchers which is cutting into our competition.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why don't you learn something from them?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We are looking into this. At the moment, the Tariff Commission is looking into the cost structure of the industry. As soon as the report is received, we will consider what steps may be needed to help the industry to maintain its position in the world market.

SHRI HIMATSINGKA: The Chairman of the jute industry made a statement that about a year and a half ago the IFC had sanctioned a loan of Rs. 500 crores to the industry and in spite of the fact that individual cases have been examined the money has not been released.

Do the Government propose to take any action so that money can be released to enable the industry to modernise and improve itself?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: So far as carpet backing and the broad looms are concerned, there is a policy to give liberal licences for setting up new units as well as for modernisation. Cases that come up to us for sanction of these loans and for financial assistance are taken up on individual basis and they are given liberally.

SHRI SWELL: I would like to know what is the total amount in terms of rupees involved per day in our jute transaction in the world market and what is the amount lost in terms of foreign exchange in the last few days of the strike that we had and whether the strike had adversely affected our competitiveness in the world market.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: As I said in my statement, the loss of production