

Mr. Speaker: All these cannot be dealt with here.

Next question.

Foreign Technicians in India

*531. **Shri R. Barua:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the increasing employment of exchange position becoming worse, tries having technical collaboration;

(b) whether in view of the foreign exchange position becoming worse, Government propose to restrict the number of foreign technicians; and

(c) if so, steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Foreign technical personnel are permitted to be engaged only where they are needed. An increase in the number of foreign technicians employed is a corollary to our increasing requirements of technical knowhow resulting from a large scale programme of industrialisation.

(b) The prevailing foreign exchange position is always kept in mind while agreeing to the employment of foreign technicians and no change in the present policy is considered necessary.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri R. Barua: Taking advantage of the provision in the collaboration agreements, do foreign collaborators generally bring in more than sufficient number of fitters and mechanics, apart from the experts, when such people can be had in India also; and that adds very heavily to the cost?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. Each case is examined; and when it is absolutely necessary, in the interests of the project, it is permitted.

Shri R. Barua: Will the hon. Minister give the figures of such fitters and mechanics so far available, in the public sector as well as the private sector?

Shri Kanungo: I do not believe fitters and mechanics are brought. Mechanic is a very wide term. But, fitters, certainly are not brought.

Shri R. Barua: What is the total figure?

Shri Kanungo: During the last year, it was 712.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: What is the total number of foreign technicians in our country and what is the foreign exchange involved on keeping them?

Shri Kanungo: I have not got the information. It will take a long time to collect that. All that I have said is that the case of 712 has been cleared by the Ministry.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has the Minister got accurate or near-accurate statistics to show whether the quantum of foreign technical personnel in Indian industries having foreign collaboration is much higher today than what it was in 1957? If so, what is the percentage of increase?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. The number is severely restricted to what is absolutely necessary. And we cannot compare with 1957 because in this period of time the tempo has increased considerably.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: Is the Minister in a position to give an assurance to the House that the foreign technicians are and will be imported only when Indian technicians of equal qualification are not available?

Shri Kanungo: That is the principle, exactly. And, we give privileges for that because the foreign technicians are exempt from income-tax.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: May I know whether these foreign technicians train our Indian personnel?

Shri Kanungo: Of course.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: May I know the order of priority of the industries for having technicians from abroad?

Shri Kanungo: It depends upon the particular type of industry where technical knowledge and technical collaboration is found necessary because technical knowledge is not available in the country.

Shri Sonavane: May I know how many foreign technicians who came to India from the period of the First Five Year Plan till today have left India and how many are still here?

Shri Kanungo: It will take a long time to collect the figures. But, I can tell the hon. Member that no foreign technician so employed is anxious to stay for a long time.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: What arrangements have been made to give training to Indians to place them in positions?

Shri Kanungo: Apart from it, we have got technical institutions of a very high order where people are coming up.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Could we know what is the percentage of increase in the foreign technicians between the end of the Second Five Year Plan and now?

Shri Kanungo: I have answered that question. Comparison will be difficult because it will depend upon the industrial production or installations at a given time and at another given time.

Shri Bhakwat Jha Azad: In the replies that we get from the Minister, no figures are given. How can we arrive at proper conclusions?

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In view of our foreign exchange difficulties is there a proposal to put a ceiling on emoluments that are being paid to the foreign technicians in terms of rupees?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir; because they are not available.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

अखबारी कागज

एस० एन० क्यू० ५ { श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री:
श्री प्र० चं० बरुआ:
श्री कजरोल्कर :

क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अखबारी कागजों का कोटा कुछ कम कर दिया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इससे भारतीय भाषाओं के समाचार पत्रों के लिये एक कठिनाई उत्पन्न हो गई है ;

(ग) क्या ऐसे पत्र जो दैनिक और ऊंचे स्तर के पत्र हैं, कागज का कोटा कम मिलने से आकार में छोटे निकलने लगे हैं और उनमें सामग्री भी सीमित होने लगी है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार बड़े पत्रों को जितना कोटा अब तक मिलता रहा है उतना बराबर बनाये रखने के लिये कुछ विचार कर रही है ;

(ङ) अखबारों को कागजी कोटा पूर्ववत् सबको एक जैसा मिलता रहे इस सम्बन्ध में भी क्या कुछ विचार किया जा रहा है ; और

(च) यदि हां, तो कब तक उस पर निर्णय हो जायगा ?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. A cut of 5% and 7½% in the case of newspapers and periodicals whose annual entitlement works out between 100 and 1000 tonnes and above respectively, has been imposed and the cut applies informally to all newspapers and periodicals in the country. No cut has been effected for smaller newspapers consuming less than 100 tonnes of newsprint per year.