

None of the countries of South East Asia except Japan are really having a very big trade with Latin American countries. Now, we do believe that there is possibility if we have a proper market survey and if more export houses open up their offices in Latin American countries. Currently, a high power Mexican delegation is in our country for the last one week. We are trying to have bilateral approaches to those countries.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is there any truth in certain press reports to the effect that China, with the deliberate aim of hitting India, is paying more attention to Latin America, South East Asian and African markets and if so, are there reasons to apprehend that China is likely to be a formidable rival to India in the Latin American markets in the near future?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is all obvious. China has been doing that for a long time, not only in the Latin American, but in African and Asian countries. I had the privilege to say before the House that we are trying to extend modest credits. They give 20 years, 30 years 15 years credit. The longest we have been able to afford so far, due to our foreign exchange situation, is 5 or 7 years credit. There is no reason to lose heart on that. We are going to activate it more and more. Whether we do less than China or not, that is not the point. We should do more than what we are doing so far with these countries.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The question is whether we do.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In these Latin American countries with which we have had very little trade up till now, may I know what Government have done? What are the special steps that Government have taken in order to find our markets and to increase our trade with these countries, both through the STC as well as through the Export Promotion Councils, in non-traditional items?

Jute and tea are traditional items. I want to know what has been done in regard to non-traditional items. It is not only Brazil, but there are many many countries. In all this unknown area with which we have had no trade so far, what have Government done to explore markets?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The House will appreciate that Latin America is next to the United States, almost at a stones throw. Most of the trade in that country is in manufactured articles. To try to compete in a very powerful way there would be somewhat difficult, when we have neighbours here, when we have the European continent, when we have Africa etc. where we can sell a larger quantity of goods. We have to be selective. Our approach is that we should maximise our efforts in those areas where we can get better results and certainly Latin America will also get its turn to a limited extent in that priority.

Productivity Team on Steel Industries

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*949. { **Shri R. S. Pandey:**
 { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
 { **Shri Bishanchander Seth:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Productivity Team which studied the working of the steel industries in USSR and Czechoslovakia has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, its main findings?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Team Report on Iron and Steel Industry have already been laid on the Table of the House on the 13th April, 1963. A summary of the findings of the team is contained in pages (i) to (xxii) of the Report.

Shri R. S. Pandey: May I know what steps Government propose to take to implement the recommendations made by the Team in order to have more efficiency and more production?

Shri Kanungo: The normal practice in regard to all these Study Team reports is that the reports are circulated to institutions and organisations interested in that particular industry. Later on, discussions are encouraged and organised by the local productivity councils and also discussion groups proposed by similar institutions. The National Productivity Council's business is to create interest, not to assess the results unless it be after some time. Normally, this process of putting across a report takes six months.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Yashpal Singh rose—

Shri Indrajit Gupta rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. Nobody had risen earlier, and, therefore, I had passed on to the next question. Now, next question.

Cement Factory in West Bengal

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 *950. { **Shri A. V. Raghavan:**
 { **Shri Pottakkatt:**
 { **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
 { **Shri Yajnik**

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether a licence was granted to the Sahu-Jains for starting a cement factory in West Bengal;

(b) whether the licence was granted after the publication of the Vivian Bose report;

(c) whether the findings of the report were studied before issuing the licence; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange involved?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries

(**Shri P. C. Sethi:**) (a) to (d). On the 17th October, 1962, a letter of intent was issued to Messrs. Sahu Jain Ltd., approving their application for grant of licence for setting up a cement factory at Jhaida in Purulia district of West Bengal. They were advised to take preliminary action for setting up the factory and make arrangements for the plant and equipment required with one of the indigenous machinery manufacturers. A formal licence was to issue after satisfactory arrangements had been made for the plant and equipment. This has not yet been done.

At the time the letter of intent was issued, the Vivian Bose report had not been submitted.

The proposed factory is to be set up on the basis of indigenous machinery and no foreign exchange is to be released to the party directly. The necessary amount of foreign exchange would, however, be released to the cement machinery manufacturer with whom the order is placed, for the import of the minimum essential components.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know the name and the number of applicants that were considered in the matter of issuing this licence?

Shri P. C. Sethi: On 25th May, 1961, Messrs. Sahu Jain Ltd. applied for it, and later on, in the year 1962, two more applications were received, and the West Bengal Government were requested to point out the party, and they recommended Messrs. Sahu Jain Ltd.

Shri Daji: The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that the letter of intent was issued in October, 1962. Does the hon. Deputy Minister know that the Vivian Bose Report was at least pending at that time? Am I to understand from his reply that the responsibility for the granting of this letter of intent or licence was not that of the Central Government but purely that of the West Bengal Government?