

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I take it that no application has come and therefore the question does not arise, or has there been an application and it has been rejected?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No request has been formally received whether you call it application or otherwise.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know how many jute manufacturing companies in West Bengal have so far amalgamated the various units under them, and to what extent that has increased their profitability?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is too wide a question.

Import of Tobacco

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*954. { **Shri Onkarlal Berwa:**
Shri P. C. Borroah:

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

(a) whether an agreement has of late been signed under P.L. 480 for the supply of high quality tobacco to India; and

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement and the quantity of tobacco to be imported under the agreement?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Full details are given in the **Agricultural Commodities Agreement** between the Government of the U.S.A. and the Government of India signed on the 26th November, 1962, as amended on the 1st April, 1963, copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library. Briefly the Agreement provides for import of approximately 1033 metric tons of tobacco from the U.S.A. valued at \$2.6 millions including the amount for payment of ocean transportation charges

15 per cent of the rupees accruing to the Government of the U.S.A. as 309 (A) LSD—2.

consequence of the sales made pursuant to this agreement will be made available to the U.S.A. for its expenditure in India while the remaining 85 per cent will be utilised as loans for financing such projects to promote economic development as may be mutually agreed to.

श्री ओंकारलाल बेरवा : इस समय देश में तम्बाकू का उत्पादन कितना है ?

श्री मनु भाई शाह : हमारे देश में कोई २७ करोड़ रु० का उत्पादन होता है ।

श्री ओंकारलाल बेरवा : जितनी मांग है उसकी पूर्ति के लिये कितनी तम्बाकू का आयात किया जाता है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : इस का आयात तो किया ही नहीं जाता । बल्कि स्पेशल वराइटी का एक्सपोर्ट किया जाता है २३ करोड़ रु० का । पिछले साल २० करोड़ रु० का किया था, सन् १९६२ में २३ करोड़ रु० का किया था और इस साल हम २६ करोड़ रु० का करने जा रहे हैं ।

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether this pernicious weed from America is to be utilised towards manufacture of exports or for home consumption?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is to be utilised for manufacture of exports, for internal consumption blending purposes. The United States produces in plenty special Virginia tobacco, and that is what we are importing for our cigarettes.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether it is a fact that Andhra produces the best variety of Virginia tobacco, and if so, whether any effort has been made to grow such sort of tobacco in that part of the country, so that we may stop further imports from America?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are very proud of Andhra tobacco. I would not like to put it as best or worst. It

is good tobacco. What we are importing is special Virginia tobacco which is specially grown in the climatic conditions of America. Different climates produce different goods. Some we import, some we export.

Shri Tyagi: On a point of order, Sir. The product of any State as against the other States should not be propagated here. If Andhra tobacco is the best, does it mean that our tobacco is no good?

Mr. Speaker: Shri P. C. Boroah.

Shri P. C. Boroah: May I know whether, to save foreign exchange, there is any regulation to see that not more and more people take to smoking of high class tobacco?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I could not follow.

Mr. Speaker: To save foreign exchange, is there any scheme to put in more proposals to produce more and more here and not to import from outside?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The import is only nominal—2.6 million dollars or Rs. 1.25 crores. This is actually meant for blending cigarettes. It helps in export and internal consumption. There is no question of this being a substitute for any Indian product. It is just not available here, and the tobacco trade will simply get reduced if we do not get it for its assistance.

श्रीमती शशांक मंजरी : अच्छी तम्बाकू बनाने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : सेंट्रल इंडियन ट्यूबोको कम्पनी है, फुड ग्रैंड ऐग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री है यह सब तम्बाकू का उत्पादन करने की कोशिश करते हैं, फर्टिलाइजर बगैरह देते हैं। यही तरीका है और हम क्या कर सकते हैं ?

Shri P. R. Patel: Up till now we could do without the import of tobacco under PL 480. I want to know the

special reasons why this import has become absolutely necessary.

Shri Manubhai Shah: This has been going on for the last 10 years, and PL 480 imports of this tobacco started ten years ago.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जिस तम्बाकू के खिलाफ अमरीका में ही हजारों किताबें लिखी गई हैं कि अमरीका के लोग इसे पसन्द नहीं करते, तो वह तम्बाकू हिन्दुस्तान में क्यों लाई जा रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ऐसी बात नहीं है।

Shri Kapur Singh: We want an answer.

श्री मनुभाई शाह : ऐसी बात नहीं है। बिल्कुल गलत है। यह ट्यूबोको खाली रीपिंग ट्यूबोको है। उस के अन्दर इंडियन ट्यूबोको डाली जाती है। मैं खुद तो तम्बाकू पीता नहीं इस लिये नहीं कह सकता कि क्या असर होता है, लेकिन यह बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में दुनियाँ में इस्तेमाल हो रही है।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kunhan.

Export of Biscuits

*955. **Shri P. Kunhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of biscuits has gone down recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to step up their export?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The exports of biscuits is round about Rs. 4 lakhs.

(b) Exports of biscuits are handicapped mainly due to the import restrictions imposed by some countries and also due to the establishment and development of the indigenous biscuits industry in those countries.