

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 एंड 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. **Sari 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.

(c) All possible assistance, such as, allowing the import of raw materials, packing materials, replacement of machinery, balancing equipment and packing machinery required for the industry, refund of drawback duty on imported raw materials, etc. is at present given to this industry to step up exports of biscuits. A separate Export Promotion Council has been set up for promoting the exports of Processed Foods including biscuits.

Shri Kunhan: What is the Third Plan target for the production of biscuits and what is the present production?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The present production is about 26,000 tons, and the target is 40,000 tons. We export only about 200 tons.

Shri Kunhan: What steps are being taken to improve production of biscuits?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is already part of our Plan. I am dealing with exports of biscuits. It is a low priority industry to which we are not able to extend much of our national resources for internal production and consumption.

डा० गोविन्द दास : अभी इन बिस्कुटों का निर्यात किम किस देश में होता है और क्या इस बात का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है खास खास उत्पादन करने वालों से कि उसकी कुछ ऐसी स्थिति बनायी जाए कि जिस में लोग उनको आग्रहपूर्वक ले हमारें यहां से ?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Malaya, Singapore, Ceylon, Bahrein islands, etc. are our principal markets because of the nearness of distance. Each of this country, as the House will appreciate has become independent and wants to industrialise itself. This is a simple industry and they start their own industry.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Are any steps taken to search new markets for

biscuits in African countries and is any export duty holiday intended to be given to people who export these biscuits?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is a complete holiday. The question is whether our Indian biscuits will be permitted to be imported by these countries which are themselves in a terrible shortage of foreign exchange. Their condition is worse than ours in the balance of payments position. It is, therefore, natural that they ban these imports. Even so in Persian Gulf we can make efforts. We have recently instituted enquiries in the Bahrein islands and the six gulf countries, in Kuwait and other sheikdoms to see if more could be exported there.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Although this is an industry which could be put in any backward country, is it a fact that the big British manufacturing companies are still able to export quite a large amount of their products to the South East Asian countries and that we are not able to compete with them?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is quite correct because these Huntley and Palmers and Britannia biscuits have been there for over a century. They have earned a name and a very great popularity. Because of that some biscuits are being allowed to be imported in restricted quantities by some of these countries. We have to stand up against these brands and names. In our own country the biscuit industry is not so terrific as to say that we can make any solid impact on exports.

पीपरी में अल्पमिनियम का कारखाना

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* ६५६ { श्री भक्त दर्शन :
श्री भागवत झा आजाद :

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

(क) पीपरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) में अल्पमिनियम का जो कारखाना स्थापित किया