

(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 उसको 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

+

* 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

जा रहा था, उसमें अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है; और

(ख) उसकी पूरी क्षमता का विकास करने के लिये क्या विशेष कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्रालय में उद्योग मंत्री (श्री कानूनगो) : (क) और (ख). रिहंद के समीप पीपरी (जिला मिर्जापुर, उत्तर प्रदेश) में अल्युमिनियम का कारखाना स्थापित हो चुका है तथा उसमें दिसम्बर, १९६२ में ही २०,००० मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष की दर से पूरा उत्पादन होने लगा था।

[(a) and (b). The aluminium plant at Pipri near Rihand (in Mirzapur District. U.P.) has already been established and the smelter reached its full production at the rate of 20,000 m. tons per annum in December, 1962.]

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि इस कारखाने से जितना उत्पादन होने की आशा की जाती थी या जो इसका कार्यक्रम था उतना अभी तक नहीं हो पाया है ? इसके क्या कारण हैं और कब तक इसमें पूरा उत्पादन हो सकेगा ?

श्री कानूनगो : मैंने उत्तर में कहा कि दिसम्बर, में ही पूरा हो गया

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि इस कारखाने के मालिकों ने इसके उत्पादन को दुगुना करने का प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार के सामने रखा है, और क्या इस के लिए एक थर्मल प्लांट लगाने का भी प्रस्ताव रखा है ? इस सम्बन्ध में क्या निर्णय किया गया है और क्या प्रगति हो रही है ?

Shri Kanungo: The expansion of the aluminium smelter to a capacity of 50,000 metric tons has been approved, and they have already asked for a captive thermal plant which has been approved also.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether they have given any indication as to what would be the capacity in the thermal plant for which the Government has given sanction?

Shri Kanungo: I could not tell you the capacity. It will be a thermal plant to supplement the existing supply, and the cost is likely to be of the order of Rs. 12 crores.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know what is the total capacity of this particular plant which is owned by Birlas and whether the Centre has given some financial assistance to it and, if so, how much?

Shri Kanungo: The Centre has not given any financial loan. The capacity at present is 20,000 metric tons, and the expansion (capacity will be 50,000 metric tons

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether in view of this expansion programme, the factory people have asked for any foreign exchange help or any other help?

Shri Kanungo: Of course the foreign exchange component will be provided for by loan arrangements by the firm with their partners elsewhere.

Wool Shortage

***957. Shri Buta Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of wool in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a tremendous increase in the prices of woollen goods;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the import of wool from other countries; and

(d) the steps taken, if any, in this regard?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to