

envisages raising the production to 75,000 tonnes a year.

**Shri Bade:** Is it a fact that the raw material required for the Nepa Mills, namely, *selai* is not available in sufficient quantity and, therefore, the Government is thinking of using bamboo instead of *selai*?

**Shri Bibudhendra Misra:** Both *selai* and bamboo are being used. An assessment was made of the existing availability of raw material and it was found that on the present basis it can go on for quite some time. The Department of Agriculture of the Madhya Pradesh Government are also taking steps to grow fresh vegetation.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** May I know whether any project for finding and perfecting and economically feasible technique for improving the texture and whiteness of the Nepa newsprint is under examination in any of our national laboratories?

**Shri Bibudhendra Misra:** At the moment it is not there. But, then, so far as the raw material available in this country is concerned, as I have said, we have been thinking of some public sector project. We are studying that.

**Shri Shinkre:** In view of the fact that the Nepa newsprint production is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the country and we have to import quite a lot of newsprint from abroad, costing very much in foreign exchange, and also in view of the fact that most of our so-called national newspapers contain 3/4 advertisement and only 1/4 or less than 1/4 news and views as such, are Government contemplating any steps to impose some restrictions on these newspapers regarding the volume of advertisement in a paper so that the production of Nepa Mills and a little import from outside could meet the requirements?

**Shri Bibudhendra Misra:** So far as the Ministry of Industries is con-

cerned, it is concerned only with the supply of newsprint. We have no control over newspapers as such.

#### Return of Indian Cargo confiscated by Pakistan

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- \*271. **Shri N. R. Laskar:**  
**Shri R. Barua:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**  
**Shri R. S. Pandey:**  
**Shri P. K. Deo:**  
**Shri Narasimha Reddy:**  
**Shri Kajrothkar:**  
**Shri Kapur Singh:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:**  
**Shri Basappa:**  
**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Liladhar Kotoki:**  
**Shri M. R. Krishna:**  
**Shri Brij Raj Singh:**  
**Shri M. Rampure:**  
**Shri Jashvant Mehta:**  
**Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:**  
**Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**  
**Shri Dighe:**  
**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**  
**Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:**  
**Shri Madhu Limaye:**  
**Shri Bade:**  
**Shri Hukum Chand**  
**Kachhavaia:**  
**Shri Sonavane:**  
**Shri Y. D. Singh:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative to secure the release of Indian Cargo confiscated by Pakistan during the conflict between the two countries last year; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Ever since the cease-fire last year, Government have been constantly endeavouring to

reach an arrangement with Pakistan for reciprocal release of detained cargoes. Specific proposals for mutual exchange of cargoes in their entirety were made to Pakistan in November 1965 and reiterated by us in March 1966. They evoked no response from Pakistan. At the Ministerial level talks held at Rawalpindi in March last, Pakistan showed no inclination to discuss this matter. However, as a result of persuasion by aid giving countries, Pakistan decided in January 1966, following the Tashkent declaration accord, to release aid cargoes destined for India in favour of donor countries.

(b) The present position is that while Pakistan has released some consignments of aid cargo, she has taken no steps to release other cargo impounded by her.

**Shri N. R. Laskar:** When Pakistan is not in a mood to settle all outstanding disputes with India, why is our Government so much anxious to release some of the cargo impounded during the last conflict?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Since we are following the Tashkent Declaration both in letter and in spirit, all the things flowing from that would have to be adhered to as a national policy.

**Shri N. R. Laskar:** Do our Government gain something by this one-sided giving up of the goods to Pakistan?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The gain is obvious.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Is the Government aware of the fact that there were two types of cargo impounded by Pakistan? One was cargo which was military hardware; the other was cargo which consisted of things for our consumption. What is the value of cargo of the first and second kind? What is the value of the total cargo impounded by Pakistan?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The hon. Member has divided the cargo into two categories, but they were of three types. There is no military hardware involved in this. The first category was the value of Indian cargoes impounded while in transit through the river waters of East Pakistan. The second category was the value of Indian cargo impounded by Pakistan from neutral and Pakistani ships in Pakistan ports; the third category was the aid cargo given to India as aid by the various foreign countries which passed through Pakistan. Out of these three the last one is the one in which release has been agreed to.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** In view of the fact that the confiscation by Pakistan constitutes a clear violation of international law and in view of the fact that our unilateral adherence to the spirit and the letter of the Tashkent Agreement has not been able to secure any results, what remedies do the Government plan to pursue in the matter of having this cargo released and, if so, by when are these decisions going to be finalised by the Government?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We have not remained inactive. We brought this matter to the notice of the United Nations in a letter written to the UN Secretary-General on the 17th December, 1965. This letter to the UN Secretary-General has been circulated to the members of the Security Council as a Security Council document. We are pursuing through diplomatic and bilateral channels of discussion to bring to book all these issues which relate to Pakistan. The steps have been declared before the House from time to time.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether in deciding to release the Pak cargo which had been detained by us Government had taken note of the fact that even if Pakistan wants to decide to release all our cargo in favour of India, India will not be

able to get all the cargo because a large number of cargo, for example, tea, corrugated iron sheets and cigarettes, have been disposed of by the Pakistanis in the mean time? How are Government going to settle this matter?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The international practice of compensation is there. Cargo which has been consumed away will have to be compensated for. Cargo which is useable will have to be taken into account.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** May I know if necessary precautions are envisaged to safeguard against such confiscation in the event of similar conflicts occurring in the near future?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It is a very hypothetical question.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** May I know whether Government feel that good sense will prevail on the Pakistan Government and that they will release all our cargo; if not, what measures do they think proper to get our cargo back?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We very much share the hopes of the hon. lady Member which she expressed in the first part of her question.

**Shri Basappa:** What is the value of the cargo that has been released and what is the value of the other cargo which has not been released so far?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I will give the tentative figures because they are very, very general and broad estimates. The value of the first category is Rs. 8.41 crores; the value of the second category which I had mentioned is Rs. 8.31 crores and the value of the third category is about Rs. 2½ crores.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Considering that this matter is an important ingredient of the Tashkent Declaration which the Pakistani Gov-

ernment has been treating as little more than a scrap of paper, was this matter discussed by the Prime Minister with the Soviet Prime Minister during her visit and has the Government requested the Soviet Government to use their good offices with the Pakistani Government; if so, with what result? Or, did the Minister himself discuss this with Soviet Government?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It was clearly stipulated in the joint communique that was issued. Whatever is contained there is there.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** A communique conceals more than it expresses always. That is so with most communiques. We know it very well, and you too know it very well. Government also knows it. I think, he is just trying to . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Kamath says that what is concealed is more than what is expressed.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** What is there in the document is obvious. Beyond that I have nothing to add.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Was it discussed formally by the Prime Minister himself?

**Mr. Speaker:** He says that he has nothing more to add.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** To the communique? I think, you should come to the rescue of the House.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Shri Kamath also says that you also know all about this matter; so, you might help us.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** My hon. friend is trying to help me.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Liladhar Kotoki.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Before that, will you kindly help the House? He says, he has nothing to add. To what? To the communique?

**Mr. Speaker:** To what has been said in the communique. He has no further information.... (*Interruption*). Shri Liladhar Kotoki.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** We have read the communique.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** The question was whether the Prime Minister or the Minister of International Trade took up this matter with the Soviet authorities during their visits to Soviet Russia. That question has to be answered.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As far as the talk between the two Prime Ministers is concerned . . .

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Yourself also.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** . . . actually the talk was for hours and hours and no internal details could ever be known to me or anybody else... (*Interruption*). If you ask me what I discussed, I can tell you something. I discussed about it and there is complete goodwill on the Soviet side to enforce the Tashkent Declaration.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I make a submission? You have to protect us. Here is a Minister who is trying to throw dust not only in our eyes but also in your eyes. He says that the Tashkent Declaration has been honoured. That is not so. The Tashkent Declaration does not cover this. It is only a follow-up action....

**Mr. Speaker:** Because he was asked what happened between him and the Minister or U.S.S.R., he told that.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** He has not said anything. He is an adept at evasion, and he is laughing over it now.

**Shri Liladhar Kotoki:** May I know whether the hon. Minister will be pleased to give the break-up of the various cargo confiscated in East Pakistan, particularly, jute and tea from Assam and other major commodities towards Assam?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This is what I said. About the first category, what the hon. Member has referred to, it is Rs. 8.41 crores. That is under negotiation.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** From the reply of the hon. Minister, it appears that he does not know what transpired between our Prime Minister and Mr. Kosygin. This flows from the Tashkent Agreement. I would like to know whether any communication has been addressed to the Soviet Union to use their good offices and see that they release our cargo.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** That is not a point on which we ask the interference of good offices of a third Government. But in broad Principle, more than the cargo exchange, there are many other aspects of the Tashkent Agreement to which we have been continuously drawing the attention of not only U.S.S.R. but also other friendly countries.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I put a straight question whether in this respect any communication has been addressed to them.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** No.

**Shri Bade:** Carrying the question of Shri Kamath further, I want to know whether, while having talks with the Russian Minister, he discussed this problem and whether they told him that they will insist on Pakistan to release our cargo.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** You don't get an answer 'Yes' or 'No' in such matters. We mentioned it to them and they expressed sympathy and said that the Tashkent Declaration should be implemented.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** It is not a question of 'Yes' or 'No'; it is not that immediately the cargo will be released. The question was whether they will try or not.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Should the Minister go abroad to make a mention of

things and then get no reply? Why should the foreign exchange be spent like this?

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Wasted like this.

**Mr. Speaker:** Others also do not give a definite reply that they will do this or that. They will only give hopes that they will try.

**Shri Hem Barua:** They did not give even hopes.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** He did not say even that.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know whether the hon. Minister has got any authentic news about the fact that all the impounded cargo plus our ships have been re-painted by Pakistan and are being used by different names?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This is true. We have got information that some of the cargo are being re-painted and used by Pakistan.

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ताशकन्द घोषणा के बाद हमने उन का कितने रुपये का माल छोड़ा है।

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** हमने कोई साढ़े सात करोड़ रुपये का माल छोड़ा है।

**श्री हुकूम चन्द कछवाय :** उन्होंने वास्तव में कार्गो को फेंट कर के उपयोग किया है जो कि बहुत गलत है। अभी मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर में बतलाया कि जब हम ने मंत्री स्तर पर पाकिस्तान से बातचीत करनी चाही तब वह बातचीत करने के लिये तैयार नहीं हुए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कभी मंत्री महोदय ने कोई बात छोड़ी है। यदि नहीं, तो क्यों नहीं छोड़ी।

**श्री मनुभाई शाह :** हम ने कई दफे छोड़ी है। रावलपिंडी में छोड़ी थी। लन्दन में जब मैं फारुख साहब से मिला तब भी

छोड़ी थी। जहाँ भी मौका मिलता है वहाँ छोड़ते हैं और परिणाम आपके सामने रख देते हैं।

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** सरकार ने यह नहीं बतलाया कि माल हमारा जब्त हुआ है तब इसमें विलसन और जानसन क्या कर सकते हैं। सरकार यह बतलाये कि क्या किसी जगह पर आप यह तय कर के आये हैं कि पाकिस्तान माने या न माने, हम ताशकन्द के पुतले को जरूर अपने गले में डाले रखेंगे। अगर मदाखिलत पाकिस्तान नहीं चाहता है तो सरकार के पास इसका क्या उपाय है।

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I would beg the forbearance of the House. There are large matters at stake, not only the exchange of cargo. Actually, I did not go to the Soviet Union to discuss this matter. I went for a different purpose following devaluation. Those aspects were completely resolved. My trip there was not for this purpose. But, incidentally, I mentioned this and they showed sympathy. I have already told about that. All that can be done is to invoke the sympathy of the people.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Take follow-up action now.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** All this cargo which was impounded by both the sides was being carried in ships naturally and the ships too were impounded along with the cargo. May I know whether the present position is that it is only the cargo, the Indian cargo, impounded by Pakistan which they are refusing to release or they have refused to release any of the ships also?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The ships and cargo are two separate issues and I had the privilege to tell the House before that we have agreed to exchange three ships for three ships. The ships which contained the cargo were not impounded; it was only the cargo which was impounded.

**Shri Tyagi:** I understand from the reply given by the hon. Minister that we have released the Pakistan cargo and before or after the release, some negotiations took place with Pakistan. I want to know specifically as to what was their response and what was their exact reply to releasing cargo under this so-called Tashkent agreement. Have they refused totally and despite their refusal, we have taken unilateral action to release or was it on some conditions that we released their cargo?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The point that I have made out several times before this House is this: the action of both the governments for normalisation of relations has been more or less unilateral. In the case of aid cargo, it was more bilateral. The foreign countries who are giving assistance to Pakistan and whose cargo was impounded in India and the foreign governments whose cargo was meant for India and was impounded in Pakistan were as much interested in getting those released. There, the hon. Member is right; it was a bilateral discussion and, therefore, both the governments agreed to release the cargoes; they are under release.

#### Imported Tractors from U.S.S.R.

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- \*272. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Namblar:**  
**Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:**  
**Shri Rishang Keishing:**  
**Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**  
**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for the tractors imported from U.S.S.R. because they are cheaper than the tractors manufactured in India;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that dealers are using unfair means in the distribution of these tractors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check the same?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1965, imports of 1935 tractors from U.S.S.R. were arranged. During 1966, arrangements have already been finalised for the import of 1305 tractors and are being progressed for import of about another 700 tractors from the U.S.S.R.

(c) and (d). There are four firms who act as the importing agents and they have been specifically directed by the S.T.C. to maintain registers regarding booking of orders, and to supply the tractors strictly on "first come first serve" basis. A few complaints were received from agriculturists about difficulty in obtaining their requirements; whenever such complaints are received, they are investigated and remedial measures are taken by the S.T.C.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know whether the Government has made any assessment of the number of tractors that will be required in the Fourth Five-Year Plan and whether the Government has made any arrangement for supply of those tractors indigenously or through import from U.S.S.R. or other countries?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We have made a comprehensive survey of the requirements and as the hon. Member has suggested, it is divided into two parts; how much we can produce indigenously and the balance to be imported, not necessarily from the U.S.S.R. but from the wide world with whom we have trade relations. We hope to reach near self-sufficiency in indigenous tractor production by the end of the Fourth Plan.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know what supervision the State Trading Corporation or the Ministry of Com-