

LOK SABHA

Friday, June 1, 1962/Jyaistha 11,
1884 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starch Factories in Kerala

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*1226. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Umanath:
Shri Pottekkatt:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:

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

(a) how many factories making
starch out of tapioca are to be or-
ganised in Kerala, in the Third Plan
period; and

(b) the location of these factories?

The Minister of Industry in the Min-
istry of Commerce and Industry (Shri
Kanungo): (a) and (b). The infor-
mation is being collected and will be
laid on the Table of the House.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know
whether no information about these
starch factories in Kerala, either in
the public sector or in the private
sector, is known to the Government?

Shri Kanungo: We know only of one
factory which is operating, that is, the
Lakshmi Starch Factory at Kundara.
We have no further information about
this because no licence has been taken
out.

837 (A) LSD—1.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: What is the
production of tapioca in Kerala and
has the production gone down during
the last one year?

Shri Kanungo: Production has not
gone down. They are planning to ex-
pand their production.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether
starch made out of tapioca is a foreign
exchange earner and, if so, whether
the Government proposes to start fac-
tories in the public sector?

Shri Kanungo: We have no intention
to start anything in the public sector.
Starch is saving foreign exchange. It
could be a foreign exchange earner if
the cost of production were lower.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: In view of the
fact that a very large number of small
farmers are engaged in the cultivation
of tapioca, may I know whether the
Government have considered the desir-
ability of starting co-operative societ-
ies in this industry?

Shri Kanungo: The Kerala Govern-
ment will be thinking of it. I know
they are planning something about it.

Shri Warrior: Which is the main
raw material that is used in the manu-
facture of textile starch and is the
price of tapioca not comparatively
favourable? Have the Government
investigated that possibility?

Shri Kanungo: I have no information
at the moment. But apart from in-
dustrial starch, glucose and dextrose
can also be made and the existing
plant is catering for that.

Shri K. R. Gupta: What are the
reasons for the high cost of production
of starch and how can the cost be
lowered?

Shri Kanungo: The high cost mentioned by me is in relation to exports, but it compares favourably to indigenous manufacture. The problem which has to be studied is how to reduce the prime cost of all manufactures including starch.

Shri Nataraja Pillai: May I know whether the possibility of manufacturing glucose out of tapioca powder was tried or experimented, whether anything of that kind was thought of?

Shri Kanungo: That is what I mentioned, namely, that the factory is going into the production of the same thing.

श्री क० न० तिवारी: टेपिओका एक ऐसा पदार्थ है, जो खाने में इस्तेमाल हो सकता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि दूसरे प्राविन्सिज में— जैसे बिहार है— इस के प्रचार के लिए क्या किया जा रहा है।

श्री कानुनगो: अभी तो बिहार में उसको नहीं खाते हैं। शायद वहाँ के लोगों को रुवाद नहीं लगा है।

श्री क० न० तिवारी: मैं तो यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में इसके प्रचार के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है?

श्री कानुनगो: इस प्रचार की कोई ज़रूरत नहीं पसलने, क्योंकि

We would like most of it to be converted into industrial starch.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether the Government has any estimate of the demand and supply question of starch during the Third Plan and, if so, whether there is much scope for the development of industries for manufacturing starch?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, Sir; the demand is likely to go up and there is room for expansion.

Coffee Board Employees

*1227. **Shri Maniyangadan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the employees of the Coffee Board retrenched recently have been reinstated;

(b) the number of persons retrenched and the number that have been reinstated; and

(c) how the service conditions of the persons reinstated compare with the service conditions prior to retrenchment?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number retrenched	Class III	38
	Class IV	652
Number reinstated	Class III	5
	Class IV	92

(c) There has been no change in the service conditions of the retrenched and reinstated Class III and Class IV employees except with regard to their seniority.

Shri Maniyangadan: May I know whether these persons who have been reinstated have been put in a separate category and are not allowed to contribute to the provident fund?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, there is no separate category. But because there was a little break of service, they have a certain disadvantage in seniority according to the length of service.

Shri Maniyangadan: May I know whether their prior service will be taken into consideration in fixing their emoluments?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is our view that we may look into that aspect.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Has the Coffee Board anything to do with the export of coffee to foreign countries?