

(a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या इस से यह प्रतीत नहीं होता कि जो हमारे अनुसूचित जातियों के कर्मचारी इस मंत्रालय में हैं, जिस का वर्क्स, हाउसिंग और सप्लाय मिनिस्ट्री में विलय हो गया है, उनको काम पर लगाने के लिये बहुत मन्द गति से ध्यान दिया जा रहा है ?

श्री मेहर बाबू खन्ना : पहली बात तो यह है कि मिनिस्ट्री कायम है, खत्म नहीं हुई है। नई मिनिस्ट्री के दो डिपार्टमेंट्स हैं, एक वर्क्स, हाउसिंग और सप्लाय और दूसरा रिहैबिलिटेशन। मेम्बर साहब ने ३१ मार्च तक के बारे में पूछा है, यानी पन्द्रह, बीस दिन पहले तक, कि इस मंत्रालय से, जो कि कलकत्ता में भी है, दंडकारण्य में भी है, दिल्ली में भी है, हिन्दुस्तान के हर हिस्से में है, कितने हरिजन भाई गये और कितनों को काम मिला। वह झांकड़े हम इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं। जैसे ही मिल जायेंगे, मैं दे दूंगा। लेकिन मैं अर्ज करता हूँ कि उन के साथ हमारी पूरी हमदर्दी है। होम मिनिस्ट्री के खास कबायद हैं उन के लिये, और जहां तक हो सकता है, हम उन की सहायता करते हैं।

श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या कोई अधिकारी नियुक्त किये गये हैं इस काम को चलाने के लिये ?

श्री मेहर बाबू खन्ना : मेरे मंत्रालय के ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव डिपार्टमेंट के डिप्टी सेक्रेटरी हैं जो कि इस को देखते रहते हैं। पुरानी बात है।

श्री बूटा सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन झांकड़ों को एकत्र करने में किनसे महीने लगेंगे ?

श्री मेहर बाबू खन्ना : महीनों का सवाल नहीं है। अगर तो, चार महीने

पहले के बारे में पूछा जाता तो मैं जल्दी बोलता। लेकिन आप ३१ मार्च, तक के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं और आप सिर्फ २४ अप्रैल, है। तमाम हिन्दुस्तान से झांकड़े इकट्ठे करने हैं। हम गलत बात तो बतला नहीं सकते। लेकिन बहुत जल्दी देंगे।

श्री प्रिय नृप : इन लोगों को डिस्चार्ज करने से पहले सर्वेस भोगों की लिस्ट को क्या दूसरी मिनिस्ट्रीज में सर्कुलेट किया गया कि उन लोगों को एंबार्ज करने की कितनी गुंजाइश है ?

श्री मेहरबाबू खन्ना : मैं इस एंबार्ज में बहुत दफे अर्ज कर चुका हूँ कि जहां तक इन कर्मचारियों का ताल्लुक है, जो कि उस भार्जी मिनिस्ट्री में हैं जिस का काम खत्म हो रहा है, उन के लिये हमारा एक स्पेशल सेल है। होम मिनिस्ट्री उन में दिलचस्पी ले रही है, लेबर मिनिस्ट्री भी दिलचस्पी ले रही है, और बहुत से भाई जो वहां से गये हैं उन को नौकरियां दे दी गई हैं। बहुत कम ऐसे लोग हैं जिन को हम नौकरियां नहीं दे सके।

Indian Tobacco for Russia

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*140. { Shri Warior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

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

(a) whether a new trade agreement had been concluded with the Soviet Union for purchasing more Indian tobacco this year; and

(b) if so, the quality agreed upon and the price?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Tobacco is included in the existing Trade Agreement with Soviet Union in pursuance of which the Russian Trade Representatives and Techno experts make purchases from the trade

as well as from the State Trading Corporation. Russian purchases are expected to be much larger this year.

(b) These are commercial contracts involving varying quantities and prices.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether these purchases are made through the State Trading Corporation or direct from the cultivators and which *modus operandi* is more beneficial to the cultivator?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Some operations of tobacco where we have canalised the exports will be through the State Trading Corporation, but a much larger proportion has been purchased by the Soviet representatives through the private trade.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether as a result of such new trade agreements the producers are getting more price for tobacco now than they used to get before?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is true. In most of the contracts that is so.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Apart from raw tobacco, has any serious effort been made so far by Government to stimulate the interest of our Russian friends in the well-known virtues of Indian snuff which might help to snuff out minor misunderstanding and further promote Indo-Soviet concord?

Mr. Speaker: Previously also when I requested him to confine himself to the question the hon. Member said that unless these things were said it was not possible for the hon. Minister to understand the question. Now these are not necessary adjectives that he is using. These are not necessary to elicit the required information.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: If you think it is not necessary, I may not refer to it. But I thought it is necessary to help him understand the question.

Mr. Speaker: He might ask the question straight.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That was the question.

Mr. Speaker: If he wants me to read it again, he knows it very well and therefore I need not read it. But the question shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: To my understating this does not . . .

Mr. Speaker: Then we differ in the interpretation. We might differ. Now he might ask the question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Apart from raw tobacco included in this agreement according to the hon. Minister's statement, has the Government made any serious effort so far to stimulate the interest of our Russian friends in the well-known virtues of Indian snuff?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as snuff is concerned, they have not shown any considerable interest. But I may assure the House that in blended and cured tobacco they are showing increasing interest.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I hope I will not be misunderstood, but I would like to ask whether we are giving the Russians strong tobacco or mild tobacco.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Tobacco is not classed as such. It has a variety of grades and a certain amount of nicotine percentage. They are showing interest in all the grades.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Abad: What is the expected percentage of increase in the bulk purchase?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If I may be permitted, just now I would not like to disclose the quantity. But it is considerably higher than the original quantity.

Shri Abdul Wahid: Will the hon. Minister of International Trade see to it that Indian tobacco bought in rupees is not resold to the Western bloc at cheaper prices thus prejudicing our direct sales to the Western bloc and earning foreign exchange ourselves?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is one of the apprehensions in the trade quarters, but I can assure the House that as far as the Russians are concerned they have never done it. They generally consume most of it in their own country. We are very anxious to see that diversion to other areas from rupee area trade is curtailed as much as possible.

Shri Daji: What approximately shall be the total value of this trade agreement? Is price fixation done through the Government or directly through the private trade?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That would be asking the same question in a different manner. I would not like to disclose either the price or the quantity. But the price is very reasonable and is somewhat better than in the past.

Shri Daji: Sir, I seek your protection. My question specifically was whether the price is fixed directly with the traders or through the Government.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is done directly with the traders as far as the private trade is concerned. As far as the State Trading Corporation is concerned, it is done through the STC.

Plan Publicity Exhibition

*141. **Shri Basappa:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government organised a Plan Publicity Exhibition in Flying Fox Island for the pilgrims visiting

Hardwar for the Kumbha Mela fair; and

(b) If so, what is the amount to be spent on this?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting. (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): (a) A Plan Publicity Exhibition was set up by the Director of Advertising and Visual Publicity under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, at the Kumbha Mela, Hardwar, but the venue of this Exhibition was not Flying Fox Island but the Rori Island. At the Flying Fox Island, the Director of Field Publicity under this Ministry, set up a Pavilion at which film shows, dramatic performances and other programmes connected with plan publicity were presented.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on the two items is not yet known but the estimated expenditure was Rs. 38,200 for the Plan Publicity Exhibition and Rs. 16,000 for the Pavilion and the performances.

Shri Basappa: May I know how many people have taken advantage of this Exhibition and whether it is proposed to have this kind of exhibition in important melas and yatra areas?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: About 1,10,000 people have taken advantage of the Exhibition.

Shri Basappa: And about having it at other places?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: Wherever there is an important festival, certainly we will.

Shri Ansar Harvani: May I know whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting gave any help to the Bharat Sadhu Samaj also who went to Hardwar during the Kumbh Mela?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: We have no information.