

medicines are distributed, sometimes with fatal consequences, and if so what are the steps taken by the Government?

**Shri Kanungo:** It depends. There is an organisation of the Drugs Controller which examines all types of drugs which are issued in the market by the various manufacturers. He has rights to seize and take whatever steps as provided by the Drugs Act passed by this Parliament.

**Shri Umanath:** May I know whether the Government contemplates any severer statutory provisions in the cases referred to in the previous question?

**Shri Kanungo:** If any provision is thought of, it will be brought in the form of a Bill.

# Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference

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 { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri D. N. Tiwary:**  
 \*234. { **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri Basappa:**  
**Shri Venkatasubbaiah:**  
**Shri Liladhar Kotoki:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) when the next meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers will be held; and

(b) the venue of meeting?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) It has been suggested that the next meeting might take place on 10th September for about a week.

(b) London.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** At the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, it was agreed that the next meeting would be either in India or in Canada. May I know

the reasons for not sticking to that agreement? May I take it that the future meetings would be at the different capitals of the Commonwealth countries?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** To begin with, I do not know whether there was an agreement regarding the venue of the next Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know whether this meeting would be exclusively to discuss Britain's entry into the European Common Market or whether the Prime Minister is also inclined to raise the question of racial discrimination arising out of the Immigration Act passed by the United Kingdom?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Usually, there is no agenda for these conferences. This meeting is specially called to discuss Britain's entry into the European Common Market. At such meetings, the international situation is also discussed.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** May I know whether India is going to suggest any item for the agenda of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I have stated that there is no agenda.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that some Commonwealth countries including Pakistan have made a request to the British Prime Minister to include the pattern of negotiations that U.K. had with the other members of the European Common Market, and if so, what the reaction of our Government is to this request made by those Commonwealth countries?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I think the hon. Member knows more about these negotiations than I. I do not know what suggestions the other countries have made to the United Kingdom.

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, Shri Shree Narayan Das.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Arising out of the answer to my supplementary question, and as a corollary to it, may I ask one question?

**Mr. Speaker:** I have now called Shri Shree Narayan Das. If I have time, I shall call the hon. Member later.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know whether this meeting is going to be attended by the hon. Prime Minister only or whether some other Ministers are also going to accompany him?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The House will recall that in the statement that I made the other day, I said that the Finance and Trade Ministers had also been invited to attend this conference.

**Shri Tyagi:** I could not exactly follow what the hon. Minister said with regard to the agenda. Are not items of agenda circulated amongst all the Prime Ministers? Is the agenda taken up just suddenly on the spot?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I have stated twice that there is no agenda for such conferences.

**Shri Tyagi:** Are they meeting without an agenda?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** May I know whether Government are aware that a large number of Indian children are refused admission in the primary schools in London and other places, and if so, whether the hon. Prime Minister intends to take it up with the Prime Minister of England?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a suggestion for action.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** It is a specific question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have said that it is a suggestion for action. The hon.

Member suggests that the hon. Prime Minister should take it up.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** I want to know whether the hon. Prime Minister intends to take up this question.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no agenda, and, therefore, intentions also cannot be expressed at present.

**Shri Nath Pai:** May I point out to the hon. Minister that there was no agreement that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting should be held outside the U.K., but there was an understanding that in order to emphasise the equal partnership of the other member-nations, the meeting may be held in other capitals also. May I know whether the Government of India offered to hold the meeting in Delhi, particularly, in view of the not-very-good health of the hon. Prime Minister, and if so, what the response of the U.K. Government was? I want to know whether we offered to hold it in Delhi. Why must we always go to London? It is a kind of acceptance of the superiority of the U.K. Government.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** There is no question....

**Mr. Speaker:** I think what the hon. Member wants to know is whether a suggestion was made that it should be held in Delhi.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** No, we have not made any suggestions.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Arising out of my supplementary question earlier, may I know whether the U.K. Government do not keep us informed of the nature of the discussions or the items that are to be included in the agenda, that are suggested from time to time by the other Commonwealth countries?

**Shri Nath Pai:** There is no reply to this question?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I have stated thrice that there is no agenda for such meetings.

**Mr. Speaker:** The regular agenda may not be there, but the hon. Member wants to know whether there are informal discussions between the Prime Ministers that there would be discussions on particular subjects. That is perhaps what the hon. Member wants to know.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I have already stated that this particular meeting has been called mainly to discuss the implications of Britain's entry into the European Common Market. At such meetings, they also discuss the world situation and whatever other international issues there may be which are of interest to the parties concerned.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether the recently passed Immigration Act of the United Kingdom is also going to figure in the discussions?

**Mr. Speaker:** If the agenda is not known, what can be said about what is going to happen there?

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** May I know whether the Government of India have found out why these conferences are always held in London...

**Mr. Speaker:** Why should the hon. Member go on hammering that question again and again? That question has been answered so many times. Next question.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I want to ask a piece of information from you. In view of the Prime Minister's delicate state of health, do you particularly advise him to go to London?

**Mr. Speaker:** My advice was never asked.

#### Transistor Radio

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\*235. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
          **Shri S. C. Samanta:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian firm has been given licence

for the manufacture of transistor radio in collaboration with a Japanese firm;

(b) whether this firm has started manufacturing transistors; and

(c) what percentage of indigenous material is being used by the firm for its manufacture?

**The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo):** (a) to (c). No, Sir.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** May I know whether Government contemplate the manufacture of transistor radio with any other foreign collaboration?

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** How many private firms have already approached Government for permission to import parts of transistor radio, and have they been allowed to import?

**Shri Kanungo:** Yes. Out of the allocation of foreign exchange for import of components of radios, both valve and transistor, 50 per cent are eligible for transistors.

**Shri Heda:** Shri S. C. Samanta's question asking the number of Indian firms which have been given licences for the manufacture of transistor radios has not been covered. Further to that, I would like to ask whether Government are taking note of the fact that many of these firms are more interested in importing parts rather than manufacturing the entire radio? Therefore, have Government any phased programme for these firms?

**Shri Kanungo:** These firms are assembling radios. They were doing with valve type radios. Now Government have permitted them to import 50 per cent of their import entitlement in transistor materials. They are assembling it. The question of manufacturing the whole range is being considered. No proposals have come so far.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether Bharat Electronics have also started manufacturing transistor sets? If so, are they doing so in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?

**Shri Kanungo:** No. With Bharat Electronics, there is no such proposal.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** When will we be in a position to manufacture complete transistor sets?

**Shri Kanungo:** The manufacture of basic materials will take a long time.

### Import of Cotton

\*236. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri A. S. Saigal:**

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

(a) whether Government are keen to build up a reserve of unspecified quantity of cotton to be carried forward for the next year;

(b) if so, whether Government have already initiated talks with the U.S. Government to explore the possibility of obtaining cotton under PL 480 or in exchange for Indian manganese ore; and

(c) what is the position at present?

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

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

Owing to the poor crop of the current season (1st September, 1961—31st August, 1962, the carry-over stocks of cotton at the end of the season are likely to be substantially lower than the stocks at the beginning of the season. In order to build up the stocks to the required level

and also to augment supplies during the current season, the Government have already arranged the import of about 6.5 lakh bales of foreign cotton and are exploring possibilities of importing further quantities. The Government have in their view various sources for securing the required quantities of foreign cotton, of which the P.L. 480 aid programme is one. Negotiations with the U.S. authorities for an allocation under the aid programme are still in progress. There is, however, no specific proposal for importing American cotton against export of manganese ore.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** From the statement, I find that Government have various sources in view for securing the required quantities of foreign cotton. May I know what are those sources other than PL 480?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We are buying against barter, against world tenders; we are also buying from Russia, Egypt and East African countries.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Which are the countries with whom we are having barter arrangements?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Rupee payment countries mostly and also with many others party to party basis.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** What is the difference in price of cotton imported from Egypt and from USA?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The staple length and quality vary with countries and therefore, the price varies. We buy where we get the best and the more superior qualities at competitive prices.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that Indian cotton mills need 55—56 lakh bales of cotton, what is the percentage of shortfall that is proposed to be imported?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The shortfall is of the order of a million bales. It comes to less than 20 per cent.