

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.