

Shri Ansar Harvani: I am in my seat.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it is, the others are not sitting in their places. That is my difficulty. I shall insist on the Members sitting in their seats.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: They are in their own seats.

Mr Speaker: You may be, but others are not in their seats. I shall enforce on Members being in their seats

Shri Ansar Harvani: May I know if Indian producers and directors, many of whom have distinguished themselves abroad, were consulted before these contracts were given to this person?

Dr. Keskar: There is no need for us to consult Indian directors. The House is aware that we produce dozens and dozens of documentaries here on different subjects. We give a large number to private and well-known producers in India also. We give a few to some others also. In every case, it is neither necessary nor desirable that Government should consult all the Indian producers or important directors.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how long will this foreign expert be in India and is it a fact that he has been postponing his departure from India?

Dr. Keskar: The fact is that the producer mentioned is here, also for his own purpose. He is producing a film of his own and because he was here, we thought we might benefit by getting a few documentaries prepared from him about certain aspects of production in which he is well known.

Shri Ansar Harvani: Is it a fact that the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has provided an adviser and a script writer on fabulous salary on the staff of Mr. Roberto Rossellini?

Dr. Keskar: I do not know what staff he has, but as I said, we have given him certain facilities and equipment for producing our documentaries, but not for anything else.

Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Kallai, Kerala.

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*899. { **Shri Kodiyan:**
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Kallai, (Kerala) have closed their weaving section;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Mills are finding it difficult to sell their coarse cloth;

(c) whether the Mills have approached the Central Government for any aid; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Mills have applied for a loan to the National Industrial Development Corporation for purposes of rehabilitation of their plant and machinery.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Shri Kodiyan: What is the nature of assistance sought by the company apart from financial assistance?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The company has asked for technical assistance as well as financial aid to the extent of Rs. 17 lakhs.

Shri Kodiyan: Does Government intend to take steps under the Industries Regulation Act to prevent the mills being closed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That does not arise out of this question. The matter of industrial policy has been stated on the floor of the House several times and we have indicated in what cases we take action under the Industries Act, 1951.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know the estimated monthly loss of production?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The present position is that the mills have indicated that they will restart the particular weaving section by September. The loss incurred would be to the tune of only 2 to 3 months production. It will not be more than 36 lakhs yards.

लेठ अचल निः : क्या माननीय मंत्री को मालूम है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के बहुत से सूती कपड़े के मिल बन्द पड़े हुये हैं ?

श्री मन्भाई शाह : यह तो मलाबार के बारे में है। उत्तर प्रदेश में तो हमने इतर-बीन किया और कानपुर की मिल को बन्द होने से रोका।

Manufacture of Gases

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'900. { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
Shri M. Elias:

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

(a) what is the total production at present in India of (i) oxygen gas, (ii) dissolved acetylene, (iii) nitrous oxide, (iv) electrodes and welding requirements, and (v) rare gases;

(b) whether it is a fact that one foreign company in Calcutta produces more than 90% of the total production in India;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that this company is a subsidiary of M/s. British Oxygen Ltd., Birmingham, about which the British Restrictive Practices Commission in the U.K. have recently made certain comments; and

(d) whether any steps are contemplated to check foreign monopoly and profiteering in this vital industry?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):—
 (a) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 22].

(b) Yes, Sir. It is so in the case of Oxygen gas and Nitrous oxide. It is 81% in the case of Dissolved Acetylene and 65% in the case of welding requirements and electrodes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Of the products mentioned, only the manufacture of electrodes and welding requirements is classified as a scheduled industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Two other firms already exist in this field and one of them has made substantial progress.

The manufacture of industrial gases is not a scheduled industry. New schemes for the expansion of the other existing units or for the establishment of new units will be sympathetically examined in order to facilitate competition.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I find from a Press report that the British Restrictive Practices Commission reported that the British company's profits were between 23 and 25 per cent. and they had concealed the ownership of three companies and the Commission had urged certain action against it. May I know if Government has got any figures about the Indian affiliate of this British company and if Government is going to take any steps if every high profits are being extracted?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is true that there has been some report in the United Kingdom by a Commission, but the company has disputed the findings of that Commission. Anyway, in India a subsidiary of the parent company in England is functioning and it is undoubtedly one of the biggest producers of industrial gases. Indian companies are gradually