

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

coming up and more will be encouraged if local enterprise is prepared to expand or start new units

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the fact that most gas cylinders are imported from England from the British Oxygen Company and that only in the Tata Iron and Steel Company, we have very small production of gas cylinders, may I know what steps Government are taking to make up our deficiency in this regard?

Shri Satish Chandra: About half a dozen schemes for manufacturing gas cylinders are already under consideration and we hope to be self-sufficient in gas cylinders

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is reported in the *Statesman* of 3rd January from Calcutta—that was *Reuter's* news—that the British Monopoly Commission observed that this company in UK had concealed the profits, also with a view to conceal the ownership of three companies which were ostensibly in competition with it. I would like to know whether, in view of that and also in view of the fact that welding and other works are so essential for the defence industries and for our projects, Government consider it desirable to allow this company to continue ***making these excessively high profits?

Shri Satish Chandra: This company is doing good service in India and meeting our requirements. The present position is that it wants to expand its capacity and we are asking the company to convert itself into a rupee company with a new name and to accept Indian capital, so that part-ownership of the company is at least Indian. At the same time, other Indian companies are being encouraged to put up similar plants

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to ask another question. Can I have some idea of the capital structure of this company and how much of it is foreign-owned? May I also know whether it is a fact that only one

Indian is associated as Associate Director only and not as a regular director?

Shri Satish Chandra: The present authorised capital of the company is Rs 4 crores, out of which Rs 1.32 crores has been subscribed and fully paid up. The entire capital has been subscribed by the parent company in the United Kingdom. Now the company is contemplating to raise its paid up capital to two crores 60 lakhs worth of shares will be allotted to Indian shareholders. 30 per cent will be thus allotted to Indians and the balance will belong to the British concerns

Mr Speaker: What about the director?

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that only one Indian is associated with the management and he is associated only as Associate Director and not as regular Director?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): That is true. But as my hon. colleague has mentioned, we are going to change even the name of the company and there will be more Indian directors, that is a condition which is stipulated, with the introduction of Indian capital

Shri Dasappa: Is it a fact that the quantity of electrodes manufactured by this company is insufficient to meet the demands in the country and also that the quality is not up to the mark?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is not true, the quality is very good. Over and above this company, there are three companies which manufacture electrodes. Many more schemes for manufacturing electrodes are going to be taken up, which will make the country self-sufficient, those schemes are also coming up

Shri Dasappa: Is it a fact that a certain quantity of electrodes are now imported from abroad mainly because the electrodes manufactured here are not up to the standard?

***Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Shri Manubhai Shah: About Rs 35 lakhs worth of electrodes and welding apparatus come to this country, but not on account of bad quality, but because of the gap between demand and supply. We are trying to bridge that gap.

अमृतसर में विस्थापित व्यक्ति

६०२ श्री रघुनाथ सिंह क्या पुनर्वासित तथा घर-सम्पत्ति का कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कोहाट के विस्थापित व्यक्तियों के कुछ परिवार अब भी अमृतसर में शिविरों में पड़े हुये हैं और उनको बसाने के लिये अब तक कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है, और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि कोहाट अबवा सीमान्त प्रादिम जाति क्षेत्रों से आये हुये शरणार्थी अब भी लाहौर के भारतीय शरणार्थी शिविर में रहने हैं और उनको अभी तक भारत नहीं भेजा गया है ?

पुनर्वासित तथा अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्री (श्री मेहर बन्धु लाल): (क) और (ख). कोहाट के कई परिवार अमृतसर और लाहौर के ट्राजिट कैम्पों में रह रहे हैं। लाहौर में रहने वाले परिवारों को भारत में लाकर बसाने और अमृतसर में पहले से आये हुये परिवारों को बसाने की हर मुमकिन कोशिश की जा रही है।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: यह लोग कितने दिनों से लाहौर में पड़े हुये हैं और अब तक यह लोग हिन्दुस्तान क्यों नहीं लाये गये ?

श्री मेहर बन्धु लाल: जहां तक कोहाट के शरणार्थी परिवारों का ताल्लुक है वह शायद कोई ३६, ४० परिवार हैं और जिनमें कि रह रहे प्रादिमियों की तादाद २०० के करीब है, कुछ तो पिछले साल से हैं और बहुत से इस साल से हैं लेकिन अभी बन्द एक दिनों में वह १८ या २० परिवार तो हिन्दुस्तान आ चुके हैं और २०, २२ परिवार लाहौर में बाकी रह गये हैं।

Foreign Trade Board

*903. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government of India have recently constituted a Foreign Trade Board, and

(b) if so, what are the duties and functions assigned to the Board?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Board is intended to bring about an integrated approach towards the country's commercial problems and to secure co-ordinated and cohesive working of the organisations dealing with matters having a bearing on the country's commerce. The Board is mainly concentrating on measures to promote exports and save foreign exchange.

Shri V. P. Nayar. May I know whether the Board will take into consideration the possibility of export with a long range view or whether it will have only the years immediately following in view?

Shri Satish Chandra. The purpose of the Board is mainly to co-ordinate the work of the various agencies which deal with various aspects of export and import trade so that the work may be done in a more cohesive and systematic manner.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Is it a fact that the Foreign Trade Board which met recently held the view that the targets fixed by the different Export promotion councils for the coming years was rather on the high side, whether they themselves have fixed any target and if so, what is the target that they have fixed?

Shri Satish Chandra: The Board has met only once so far. It considered some problems about export. It also looked into the recommendations of the various Export promotion councils. It has suggested a series of intensive studies of potential foreign markets where our goods can be