

gentleman is going to advance money to Indian entrepreneurs?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I indicated in answer to (b), (c) and (d), no terms have so far been drawn up or offered

Mr. Speaker: After all this is \$25,000, a lakh and odd. We will be spending a thousand crores. This ought not to have been admitted. Everybody may offer ten rupees and so on by way of gift.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know why Mr. Graham was allowed to negotiate with private parties without the knowledge of the Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: He has neither negotiated with private parties nor without the knowledge of Government. As I said, he had a meeting with the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries, the senior-most officer of the Government of India for small scale industries. No agreement or anything of that sort has been drawn up.

Mr. Speaker: It is too small a matter.

Nepa Newsprint Factory

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- *1134. { **Shri Assar.**
 { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 254 on the 21st November, 1956 and state

(a) whether Nepa Newsprint Factory has reached the production level of 100 tons per day,

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) what is the daily capacity of the cutting machine of this Nepa Factory?

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

(a) and (b) The factory has not so far reached the rated capacity of 100 tons per day, as certain readjustments in the plant are yet to be completed

(c) 3-5 tons per day

Shri P. B. Patel: Is it not because of maladministration that the company is losing market?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is not a question of maladministration but of some maladjustment. The factory has not yet reached its rated capacity because some additional plants and equipment are necessary in one or two sections of the factory. For instance, a plant is to be installed for bleaching the salai wood pulp which is not as bright without bleaching as the imported newsprint. Similarly, the capacity for making bamboo pulp is inadequate as compared with the other sections of the factory and it is being made up.

Shri Assar: May I know whether it is a fact that contracts are coming in for cutting from outside agencies and, if so, what is the reason?

Shri Satish Chandra: The cutting capacity at the factory is more than its own requirements.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know what was the original target date by which the production of 100 tons per day was to be achieved?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): This factory, as the House is aware, was really started in 1947. So, at that time there was neither the Plan nor any target or anything like that. Normally, the factory should have reached the rated production in 4 years' time. Unfortunately, due to several mishaps it could not come to full production.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: What is the loss this factory has incurred annually?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That varies from time to time, sometimes it is Rs. 15 lakhs and sometimes it is Rs. 5 lakhs.

Shri Ranga: Has any effort been made by Government to examine and find out who were the technical officers responsible for this continued failure of the factory either to have the necessary equipment or to come into proper production?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If I may correct a little rather wrong impression which there might be in some quarters, it is not the technical equipment that is necessarily bad. The financial management, right from the beginning, was not of the satisfactory order. The Central Government stepped in only 3 years back because a considerable amount of loan was given. Now, practically, the whole control is in our hands and as I said on the floor of the House a few days back, we hope to bring the whole thing to the real rated production, possibly, in the next 6 months.

Shri Ranga: Even during this period of three years during which the Central Government has taken interest in the matter, why is it that some of the machinery is not available and the capacity has not been reached?

Shri Manubhai Shah: What my hon. colleague really meant was not that there was so much of lacking in plants as not to produce 95 to 100 tons per day. One of the headers in the boiler gave way and there was a certain collapse which happened there. It is not only in this factory but in many other factories both in the private sector and the public sector that this happens. We have immediately asked the suppliers to fly some persons to England and other countries and also contacted local persons to build these headers. I wish to assure the House that very soon it will be put in order and we hope to reach the previous rate of 65 tons per day.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if the newsprint that is produced at this factory is sold at a subsidised rate?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know what is the total loss the factory has incurred since its inception?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the hon. Member wants the actual figures from 1947 when the factory was started, I will certainly place it before the House.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: May I know whether this Government will follow the Canadian Government's policy of afforestation because so many trees are cut and will there be a co-ordinate policy of afforestation?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It hardly arises out of this question. Afforestation is a very major policy of Government.

Evacuee Property

*1135. **Shri Kodiyam:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Custodian of Evacuee Property Sufferers' Association, Lashkar (M.P.),

(b) if so, the nature of their grievances, and

(c) the steps taken to redress their grievances?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes

(b) Complaints generally relate to declaration of property as evacuee property, delay in restoration of property and disposal of cases. It is also alleged that the Custodian's Department is corrupt.

(c) If a property has been wrongly declared as evacuee property, the remedy to the owner concerned lies in appeal/revision in the manner provided for in the Evacuee Property Act. Complaints regarding delay in disposal of restoration and other judicial cases, are baseless. As against about 1,900 cases in the former Madhya Bharat on 1st October, 1955, at present there are only about a dozen judicial cases left for disposal. Complaint about corruption is in too general terms to merit enquiry.

Shri Kodiyam: May I know whether it is a fact that even after the Central Government directed the Custodian in charge of the evacuee pool to restore those properties which were declared as non-evacuee properties to their