

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 10th December, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

"Indian Information" and "Bharteeya Samachar"

*929. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 367, on the 26th July, 1957, and state:

(a) whether a decision with regard to the publication of the "Indian Information" and "Bharteeya Samachar" has since been taken;

(b) if so, when the journals are likely to be published; and

(c) the estimate of cost?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). The matter is still under consideration. A decision is expected to be taken soon.

I might, however, inform the House that a decision on principle has been taken that this publication should be resumed.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what are the hurdles in the way of the implementation of this decision? Is it the cost or the editorial staff or something else?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that the decision has been taken; there are no hurdles perhaps now.

Dr. Keskar: I might make the matter clear. It is not simply the question of starting the publication. The Estimates Committee recommended that it is desirable that this publication be resumed. At the same time, they advised the Ministry to examine whether the work or the objective that we might achieve by resuming publication will not be served by utilising some of the other periodicals of this Ministry. It was this matter which was being examined during the last few months. It was explained and it was also accepted by the Estimates Committee later that it is not possible for us to utilise the present periodicals for the objectives that the 'Indian Information' periodical might achieve. And, it is only now that it has been definitely decided that it might be resumed. At the same time, we have to bear in mind that this would entail an expenditure of not less than Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs; and we have, therefore, to see how it is possible for us to arrange for its resumption.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are those special objectives to which the hon. Minister referred and which, he says, cannot be achieved in an indirect way but must be achieved in a direct way?

Dr. Keskar: Informing and educating the public on all policy statements and other authentic information regarding developing economic, social and industrial activities undertaken by Government, the objectives of Government policy both at home and abroad; these and some other things like that will be included and to have it in one place as a compendium is something other than utilising journals at present working in the Ministry but which are for special purposes.

श्री अक्षय वर्मा : चूंकि इस प्रश्न के बारे में काफी देरी हो चुकी है, इसलिये क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि देर से देर कब तक इसके प्रकाशन की धाया की जा सकती है ?

डा० केशकर : देरी तो जरूर हो चुकी है, लेकिन चूंकि काफी खर्च का सवाल है इसलिये इसका फिर से शुरू करना सोच विचार कर ही किया जा सकता है ।

Shri Anwar Harvani: Is it not a fact that the Publicity Division of the External Affairs Ministry is already issuing literature for this purpose?

Dr. Keskar: The Publicity Division caters only for the publicity of the Five Year Plan and nothing else.

Industrial Capital Goods

*930. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the off-take of industrial capital goods from foreign countries has fallen down during the period from July, 1957 to 31st October, 1957; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The figures of actual off-take of industrial capital goods from foreign countries for the period July, 1957 to 31st October, 1957, are not available.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : जब देश में कंपीटल गुड्स की इतनी मांग है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार को चार महीने का हिसाब देने में क्यों दिक्कत हो गई ?

श्री कानुंगो : हिसाब रखा जाता है । लेकिन अभी तक एक दो महीने का धाया है पूरे तीन महीने का नहीं धाया है ।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : सरकार के पास इतना अवरदस्त स्टाफ है फिर भी सरकार चार महीने का भी हिसाब नहीं दे सकती ।

मैं नहीं समझता कि धाये हमारी सरकार इनफार्मेशन देने में किस तरह से मदद करेगी ?

उभाय्यक महोदय : यह तो दूसरा सवाल है ।

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Just now the hon. Minister said that he has not got all the figures but the figures for a month or two. May I know what is the actual situation according to those figures?

Shri Kanungo: The situation is that in July, 1957, capital goods to the value of Rs. 1,823 lakhs have been imported.

Import of Textile Machinery

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*931. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:

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

(a) the names of countries with which agreements have been concluded or are proposed to be concluded to import textile machinery;

(b) the nature of agreements with each of them,

(c) the value of such imports; and

(d) the extent of import that has already been made?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Agreements have been concluded with the German Democratic Republic and Japan. Negotiations are in progress for concluding an agreement for import of Textile Machinery with Czechoslovakia.

(b) Agreements with German Democratic Republic and Japan secure deferred payment terms for 4 and 5 years respectively. In the former case, the sale proceeds would be utilised to purchase Indian goods while in the latter payments would be made to the Japanese sellers direct.

(c) Rs. 1.2 crores worth of Textile machinery would be imported under