

about this aspect, so that we shall have comprehensive information on the subject as a result of this census.

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** May I know whether the trial is mostly centred round the industries where labour participation in management has been allowed?

**Shri Nanda:** Labour participation is a very recent decision, and I do not think that has very much to do with this.

#### Import Licences

\*134. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether any estimate has been made as to the total amount of outstanding licences issued for imports during 1956 and 1957 giving separate figures for each;

(b) the amount of such licences that have been cancelled during the same period;

(c) the total amount of licences of imports issued during the same period giving quarterly figures; and

(d) the efforts made and results achieved to save foreign exchange to meet the crisis?

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

(a) Information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Nil.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 72].

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** In view of the difficulties regarding foreign exchange, may I know whether any scrutiny was made by Government of the licences issued with a view to find out whether some of the licences could be cancelled in cases where no firm commitments were made?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The pending licences are kept under review. Most of the licences that were issued in the preceding periods have materialized. There are some which are outstanding, the value in respect of which is given in the statement. As the hon. Member knows, there has been a drastic change in the import policy and all non-essential goods have been cut down and are not allowed to be imported now. Facilities were provided for the conversion of licenses from less important items to more essential goods.

**Shri Khadilkar:** In view of the overdraft on our foreign exchange resources during this period because of the indiscriminate issue of licences to the private sector people, will Government consider the appointment of an independent enquiry commission to probe into this matter?

**Mr. Speaker:** These are all suggestions for action.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** May I know whether the larger value of licences issued during the period October to March 1958—the figure given here is only up to 4th January 1958—reflects any easing of our foreign exchange position? What are the reasons for this?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** The draw-down, as the hon. Member knows, is now reduced considerably, and it is about Rs. 2 crores per week. That shows a considerable improvement over the past, and there is a very close scrutiny of the Red Book through which licences are curbed. All care is being taken to see that the draw-down is kept to the minimum.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** The question was not answered. Why was a larger value of licences issued during October 1957-March 1958 than during the previous period?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As the hon. Member knows, the switch-over in that policy really took place in July and the three-month period was kept at the lowest level in order to make a proper study. After Government came to the conclusion that certain things could

be allowed on a certain basis, the October-March period represents a real period of normalcy.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** From the statement in answer to (d), I find that since January 1957, the policy has been to restrict imports to the minimum necessary for a developing economy. In view of this, could I know whether Government have reduced the actual imports of goods other than capital goods? If so, what is the reduction in value of actual import of consumer goods in 1957 as compared to 1956?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I will divide the question into three parts. As the House is aware, liberal licensing has been completely stopped in respect of 87 items—so many items of consumer goods and OGL have been withdrawn. But it will not be possible to give the break-up at this stage; the savings have been on different accounts. However, it can safely be stated that all the consumer goods have been considerably restricted, and practically in most of the cases, they have been totally banned.

In the case of capital goods also, a deferred payment system and a system of foreign credit have been evolved, and these measures give a complete bias in favour of capital and producer goods and practically no bias for consumer goods.

**Pandit D N. Tiwary:** May I know whether there is a proposal before Government to cancel all such licences in respect of which no steps have been taken to honour the same within six months?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As my hon colleague has already mentioned, there is no question of cancellation arising. A licence is given because it is necessary to give or it is allowed under the policy mentioned in the Red Book.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकारी कारखाने जैसे लोहे के कारखाने

बगैरह जहाँ बिठाये जा रहे हैं वहाँ के लिए बहुत कुछ एक्विपमेंट और सामान इस देश में उपलब्ध हो सकता था तो उसके लिए सरकार ने बाहर से मंगवाने की क्यों आज्ञा दी ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : यह बात सही नहीं है कि कोई आज्ञा दी गई । हुआ तो ऐसा है कि जहाँ जरूरत थी वहाँ भी हमने खीच कर जितना कम हो सकता था उतना कम किया है ।

#### Mangla Dam

+

{  
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
 Shri N. E. Munisamy:  
 Shri Bhakt Darshan:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Goray:  
 \*135. { Shri Jaganatha Rao:  
 Shri Raghunath Singh:  
 Shri Sarju Pandey:  
 Shri Vajpayee:  
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:  
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:  
 Shri Anirudh Sinha:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that Pakistan has signed a contract with a U.K firm for the construction of Mangla Dam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an American engineering firm is also taking part in the construction;

(c) if so, whether the attention of U N has been drawn to this fact; and

(d) whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan as well?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). We have seen press reports to this effect.

(c) A copy of the letter addressed by the Permanent Representative of