

Production of Cocoa and Chocolate

*2215. **Shri Siddananajappa:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a foreign company has set up a factory for producing cocoa and chocolate in Bombay;

(b) if so, the name of the firm;

(c) whether it is a fact that establishment of this factory has placed the indigenous cocoa and chocolate industry at a great disadvantage; and

(d) if so, in what way and what steps Government are taking to help the Indian Industry?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). No new foreign owned factory has been set up in the last ten years in this line.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Shri Joachim Alva: Are Government aware that the Indian concern Sathe Chocolate Co. owned and managed completely by Indians is putting forth good cocoa and chocolate in the market, but the Cadburys have been given enormous facilities during the last few years, and this being the case, what early chance is there of the Indian concern rising to the level of a national concern like the Cadburys in regard to its advertisement and organisation?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The Sathe Co. to which the hon. Member has referred has been continuously progressing, and they are today in a position to compete even with Cadburys. Their production today almost equals or is a little higher than that of the Cadbury company. And the Cadbury company is not of recent origin; it was started much earlier, and got really established in 1947-48. Therefore, in my answer, I have said that no new firm has been allowed to be established in this particular line, owned by foreign companies, in the last ten years.

As far as treatment to the companies is concerned, it is all equal, according to the past performance.

Shri Joachim Alva: Will Government lay on the Table a statement giving concessions granted to the Cadbury company during the last five years?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No concessions have been granted. The chocolate and cocoa industry was a protected industry, and as the House is aware, last time, according to the Bill which I had sponsored here, we had deprotected this industry; and all the statements regarding all the three factories which are manufacturing chocolate and cocoa powder are already well known to the House.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know how many indigenous cocoa and chocolate manufacturing concerns are in existence in the country at present?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Three in the large-scale sector, of which two are entirely Indian-owned.

श्री वाजपेयी: भ्रमी जब केन्द्रीय मंत्री जी बम्बई गये थे तो उन्हें चाकलेट का हार उपहार में भेंट किया गया था। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या टाफी और चाकलेट्स के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिये अन्य मंत्रियों को भी इस प्रकार के हार स्वीकार करने की सूचना दी गई है।

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member also can go.

Shri Vajpayee: Nobody presents Members with chocolates.

Shri Goray: May I know whether the Cadbury company still enjoys the privilege of importing chocolate in bulk?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No; all the privileges or whatever assistance is given by the Government of India by way of import are equally given to all the companies, based on the past performance. As a matter of fact, the House will be glad to know that in

respect of chocolates, everything is banned for import, and only a certain amount of powder is allowed to come in; and we have been able to export chocolate and chocolate products worth about Rs. 3 lakhs last year

Cooper Allen and Co.

*2316. **Shri K. N. Pandey:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of Cooper Allen and Co., a branch of the British India Corporation at Kanpur, is deteriorating every day inspite of Government's support;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate launching an enquiry into the causes of its deterioration; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) is in the negative, the steps proposed to be taken to save this leather industry?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c) Though initially there were some set backs, Cooper Allen, a subsidiary concern of the British India Corporation has made some headway since September, 1958 in effecting economies and improving its general financial position. Certain measures to further stabilise this concern are under examination, in consultation with the Receiver and the Ministry of Defence

Shri K. N. Pandey: Is it a fact that the condition of the factory has gone bad simply because of mismanagement and if so, what steps have Government taken to improve the condition of the management there?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Precisely for those reasons, it has gone into the Receiver's hands, and Government are now trying to reorganise it, and as I have assured the House, several steps have been taken which have improved the working even during the last six months.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister has stated that certain measures are under consideration. I want to know what those specific measures

are and whether any suggestions have been given by the Receiver in consultation with those people.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Recently, we moved the Allahabad High Court, and a board of directors has been only appointed in February this year, with ten members with experience, and they are suggesting a large diversification of production in this line. And we do hope that in the next few months, we shall be able to establish new lines of production. We are also contacting the Defence Ministry who have discontinued purchase of ankle boots from this company, to see if new lines can be given to this particular firm.

श्री जगदीश शर्मा: जैसा कि श्री मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कूपर अलेन कम्पनी की आर्थिक स्थिति खराब होती जा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कूपर अलेन कम्पनी के प्रबन्धकों ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से किसी प्रकार की आर्थिक याचना ऋण आदि के रूप में की है, और यदि की है तो उस पर क्या सरकार ने विचार किया है?

श्री मनुभाई शाह: जब रिसेवर अर्प्वाइट किया जाता है ता उस का मतलब यह है कि मॅनेजमेन्ट में गड़बड़ी है। क्रेडिटर्स और एग्जिक्यूटिव्स के कोर्ट में दावा दायर करने की वजह से रिसेवर अर्प्वाइट किया जाता है। उस के बाद सारी जिम्मेदारी हार्ड कोर्ट रिसेवर की है और वह स्टेट बैंक और दूसरे बैंकों की मदद से काम कर रहा है।

Import Licences

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*2317. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri Warier:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 1315 on the 11th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the investigations regarding the grant of import licences to Fedco and Wakefield have been completed;