

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 57].

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any assessment has been made of the requirements of the tea industry in respect of the equipment and machinery to be replaced?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The case of every applicant is being considered by the Tea Board, and it will be decided on merits.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any security shall be furnished against the assistance given?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: There will be no security as such. In fact, it is with a view to help the tea industry that this kind of scheme has been drawn up.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that machinery is proposed to be given to the tea estates on a hire purchase basis, may I know what specific safeguards are proposed to be taken by the Board to protect its interest?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Sufficient safeguards will be taken. But generally the practice is that the machinery is kept mortgaged to the Tea Board or to a particular organisation.

Shri Tangamani: How much of the Rs. 2 crores allotted under this scheme for modernising tea factory machinery has so far been utilised?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Not much, because the scheme was introduced only recently. Applications are still coming in.

Shri Palaniyandy: Before approving any of the Assistance schemes, will Government insist on implementation by tea planters of the housing schemes which are already there?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: That scheme directly concerns the employers. It is true that not much progress has been made in that regard.

Shri P. C. Borooah: I find from the statement that in no single case will the amount of assistance exceed Rs. 2 lakhs. In view of the fact that the cost of a drying machine, which is the most important part of the equipment, on the high side of Rs. 1 lakh, do not Government consider the limit fixed as small?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: This is altogether a new scheme which has been introduced. It is the beginning. At present, we have decided to keep the ceiling at Rs. 2 lakhs. If however necessity arises to raise it, we will consider it.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether there is any scheme to give financial assistance for the setting up of tea factories in the Kangra district? If so, what is the amount allocated for the purpose?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: No, we have provided no such funds.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: Recently quite a number of companies have been selling out and repatriating their money abroad. May I know whether there is going to be any safeguard to ensure that the repayment of this assistance will be incumbent on those companies and not on the new companies which are buying up the concerns?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I think the hon. lady Member is talking of something which is old. Recently there has been no such repatriation.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: Sales are going on.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I am not aware of that also.

Export of Iron Ore

1368 **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of Iron ore to Japan and Czechoslovakia is being carried in Indian ships;

(b) if not, to what extent has the work been entrusted to Indian ships; and

(c) what measures are being taken to ensure that the entire transport is done by Indian ships?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Yes, to a small extent.

(c) Steps are being taken to prevail upon the principal purchasers to utilize Indian shipping. Czechoslovakia has agreed to use Indian shipping to the maximum extent provided other things are equal. Japan has also agreed to use Indian shipping to the extent of 10 per cent of the total tonnage.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad: As regards the remaining 90 per cent, are they carried by Japanese ships or other ships?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Both.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad: In respect of the other ships, was an attempt made to request the Japanese Government to use Indian ships?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Yes, we usually do it. In fact, we have almost decided to emphasise this point in the agreement. In a number of cases we have provided for greater use of Indian ships.

Shri P. R. Patel: It is said that they would transport 10 per cent in Indian ships. I want to know why more than 50 per cent or 50 per cent is not being transported in Indian ships. Is it because we have not sufficient ships?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: That is correct. Our tonnage is very short. Secondly, we have not got all types of ships because cargo has to be carried in special types of ships. That is also another difficulty which comes in the way.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Prize Bonds

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{ Shri A. M. Tariq:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 S.N.Q. } Shri Vajpayee:
 No. 12. } Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Madhusadan Rao:
 { Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether prize bonds distributed by the Government of India were exhausted in most of the Post Offices and other distribution centres on the very day on which their distribution had started;

(b) whether a large number of people who wanted to purchase them had returned disappointed; and

(c) if so, what steps had been taken by Government to ensure supply of adequate number of prize bonds to the various distribution centres?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). Due to unanticipated rush on the opening day, stocks of Rs. 5 Prize Bonds were reported to have fallen short at certain selling offices.

(c) Arrangements have since been made for the supply of additional stocks from the Central Reserves and for printing additional supplies to meet the likely future demands.

श्री प्र० म० तारिक : पहले तो हुकूमत ने इस चीज को लोगों में काफी पब्लिसाइज किया और फिर पांच रुपये के बाइज इतनी कम तादाद में छापे और लोगों को यह भी इजाजत दी कि वे जितनी तादाद में चाहें उन को खरीदें और लोगों ने पांच रुपये के बाइज एक हजार रुपये तक की मिकदार में खरीदे। अगर यह दुस्त है, तो क्या हुकूमत इस मिलमिले में कोई रोक-थाम करना चाहती है ?