

Shri Parulekar: May I know whether in fixing the instalments to be paid by the non-claimants their paying capacity has been taken into consideration?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): It is not obligatory for a non-claimant to become the owner of a house. We are giving him a concession. It is up to him to purchase the property or not to purchase the property.

Shri Parulekar: Whether it is obligatory on him or not is not the question. But the question is whether his paying capacity has been taken into consideration in fixing the instalments.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member probably wants to know whether in fixing the instalments due regard had been paid to the paying capacity.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My reply was very clear, Sir. It is not obligatory on a non-claimant, meaning thereby a person who never owned a house in Pakistan, to purchase the property belonging to Government. It is entirely up to him. What we have done is that we are charging only 20 per cent in the first instalment; and the balance, we are collecting in 7 or 8 years. Thus, we have given him another concession.

Shri Parulekar: May I know whether in the case of a claimant the arrears of rent to be recovered is only for the period from 1949-1953 whereas in the case of a non-claimant, the arrears to be recovered is for the period from 1949 up to date?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: In the case of a claimant, I think, we have given a concession not to charge any rent from 1st October, 1955; and in the case of a non-claimant who is living in an allottable property, if he also chooses to become the owner of that allottable property according to the terms laid down by us, the rent is also not chargeable from 1st October, 1955.

Manufacture of Watches

†

*1600. {
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Jadhav:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Achar:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Shri Madhusudan Rao:
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 Shri Warrior:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken final decision to manufacture watches in the Public Sector;

(b) what will be the amount of foreign exchange saved by this endeavour;

(c) what will be the effect of the same on the private watch dealers; and

(d) whether all the parts will be manufactured in India or they will be assembled?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

As the House is aware, Government is establishing a Watch factory with the collaboration of the Japanese Citizen Watch Co. The production of this factory is likely to begin some time in 1962.

The percentage of indigenous content to be manufactured by this factory will be as follows:

First Year	54% indigenous
Second Year	60% indigenous
Third Year	72% indigenous
Fourth Year	84% indigenous

The total investment involved will be about Rs. 1 to 1.5 crores of which about Rs. 70 lakhs will be in foreign exchange for import of plant and

equipment from Japan and other countries of the world. As a watch factory is of a high precision nature, very much like the manufacture of light very high precision machine tools, the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. who have got very considerable experience in this line, will undertake this production. The personnel is to be trained in India and in Japan with the collaboration of the Japanese Co. Excepting hair springs and a few other parts, almost all the parts will be indigenously manufactured to the extent of 84% and more. The expected savings in foreign exchange when the manufacture goes into full production, will be over Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1½ crores. The annual production, when in full production, is expected to be 3.6 to 4 lakh wrist watches (both gents and ladies).

The private watch dealers are being allowed import of watches under the current licensing period 10% soft and 10% general. When this factory goes into production, more watches will be available to watch dealers for distribution. A copy of the agreement with the Japanese Citizen Watch Co. is already placed in the Library of the House.

Shri Hem Barua: From the statement it is evident that private dealers are given import licences to import not more than 10 per cent soft and 10 per cent general. May I know whether a ceiling on the prices of the imported watches has been put? If so, may I also know whether there is any machinery to see that the ceiling is adhered to?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The ceiling on prices is mentioned in the Red Book for import policy. That is Rs. 150 and less are the watches which can be imported: superior or more expensive watches cannot be imported.

Shri Palaniandy: May I know whether Government is having any assessment of our requirements? May I also know for how much of that we have given import licences during the past 5 years?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We do not have the actual assessment. But restrictions have come since the foreign exchange crisis developed. In the last 3 years, therefore, we have been considering it. But a broad estimate made of the national demand shows that 2 million to 3 million watches could be easily consumed in the country.

श्री खादीवाल : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस तरह का कोई घड़ी का कारखाना क्या इन्दौर में भी खोला गया है, और उस को सरकार की तरफ से कुछ मदद दी गई है? और अब उस का कार्य कैसा चल रहा है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : इन्दौर में जो खोला गया था वह ब्लॉक एक्स्टेंशन का ट्रेनिंग सेंटर था और वह आज भी वहां मौजूद है। वहां बीच की कोई फैक्ट्री नहीं है।

Shri Warrior: May I know whether in the matter of the components imported from Japan any arrangements are made to get these components at prices competitive and favourable to us?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is already a part of the agreement, which, as I mentioned in the statement, is available in the Library of the House. All the components, their gradual reduction and the increasing indigenous content are all stipulated in the agreement itself with a ceiling on the prices.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether these components are got at competitive prices in Japan itself?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They are all competitive; though, of course, it is very difficult to ascertain one part from the other when there are hundreds of minor parts.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether at any time the watches will

become cent per cent indigenous because from the statement we find that in the 4th year we will have only 84 per cent indigenous? If not, what is the difficulty in manufacturing watches with cent per cent indigenous components?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The House is fully familiar with the subject. Watch is one of the most difficult commodities manufactured. And if we can really make 84 per cent of it indigenous in 4 years, I think, it will be a very big and major step forward so that more and more technicians can go out of these factories and be able to spread out in every part of the country. I can say that if the jewels and hair-springs are also made, perhaps, we can add another 5 per cent to the indigenous components.

Mr. Speaker: I find there are a number of hon. Members. They can put supplementaries on other questions. Next question, Shri Damani.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: Sir, my name is there in the question.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; there are ladies' watches also. Shrimati Mafida Ahmed. *(Interruptions)*.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: May I know whether Indian trainees would be given facilities for training in this Factory?

Shri Manubhai Shah: One hundred young trainees from India will be sent to Japan for training in horology and all the technology thereof.

Shri Joachim Alva: Sir, one question, Sir; one point of elucidation.

Mr. Speaker: Again and again I am hearing this. All right.

Shri Joachim Alva: Will Government keep a strict watch in regard to the sale of the watches through the dealers? What is the arrangement about the sale? Are we going to follow the same policy as with regard to the sale of Hindustan Machine Tools?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The same policy of sales will be properly followed as in all the public sector projects. And care will be taken to see that the existing watch dealers who, due to heavy restrictions, have had to suffer a great deal of hardship are also provided a share in the distribution. Appropriate measures for price etc. to see that the consumer gets the watch at reasonable prices compared with the manufacturing cost will also be looked into.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members seem to be very much interested. Shri Jadhav.

Shri Yadav Narain Jadhav: There was a Press report some months ago that the spare parts which are to be imported from Japan are costlier than the spare parts that are available in Switzerland. May I know whether this statement is correct?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Such comparisons are rather extremely difficult because it all depends on what type of spare parts one is buying and for what purpose. Usually, as the pattern of trade shows, Japan is one of the cheapest countries even today in most of these commodities.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The fashion with regard to the design and shape of watches is changing and there are countries which keep pace with this change in fashion. May I know if the Indian manufacturers have some design experts with them to keep pace with the change in fashions in the matter of these watches?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is a very important question; and I am glad that the hon. Member has raised it. It is now the accepted policy of Government that in every public sector enterprise machine designing and industrial product designing will be started right from the beginning. And, that will also happen in the watch factories. But it will be too ambitious to think that, in a line where we have not yet made a beginning, we will be able to contribute very much in the

original designing for some time to come.

Shri Achar: May I know whether watches of different varieties would be manufactured and what would be the prices—the value?

Shri Manubhai Shah: All these are given in the statement. I would request the hon. Member to go into the agreement which has been drawn up. It will be very difficult to stipulate in advance, before three years, what will be the exact price. But they will be more of low and medium priced watches.

सिक्किम में रेडियो स्टेशन

*१६०२. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री १६ नवम्बर, १९५९ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ३४ के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सिक्किम में रेडियो स्टेशन स्थापित करने का जो प्रश्न विचाराधीन था, उस संबंध में इस बीच क्या प्रगति हुई है ;

(ख) इस रेडियो स्टेशन के कब तक चालू हो जाने की आशा है ;

(ग) इस स्टेशन की स्थापना और संचालन पर कितना आवर्तक और अनावर्तक व्यय होने का अनुमान है ; और

(घ) इस स्टेशन से कौन से विशेष कार्यक्रम प्रसारित किये जायेंगे ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री आ० चं० जोशी) : (क), (ख) और (घ). प्रारम्भिक जांच हो चुकी है। ताहम इसके पूरे होने के बारे में किसी ठीक तारीख का बताना संभव नहीं है क्योंकि स्टेशन के संगठन का विषय सिक्किम सरकार और आकाशवाणी के बीच तय होना है। इसके बारे में अभी बातचीत चल रही है।

(ग) अनावर्तक (non-recurring) व्यय का अनुमान १.८५ लाख रुपये है और

आवर्तक (recurring) व्यय का २.१५ लाख रुपये है।

Shri Anthony Pillai: May we have the translation of that?

Shri A. C. Joshi: (a), (b) and (d). Preliminary investigations have been completed. However, it is not possible to indicate any precise date for its completion because the details of the working of the Station is a matter to be settled between the Government of Sikkim and the All India Radio. Discussions are still going on.

(c) The non-recurring expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1.84 lakhs and the recurring expenditure at Rs. 2.15 lakhs.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस रेडियो स्टेशन के संबंध में कब से विचार किया जा रहा है और कब तक इस बारे में विचार समाप्त हो जाने की आशा की जाती है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० कैसकर) : इस के बारे में कोई निश्चित तारीख मैं नहीं दे सकता और यही उत्तर मैं कहा गया है क्योंकि इस बातचीत की समाप्ति करना हमारे हाथ में नहीं है। सिक्किम सरकार जो दूसरी तरफ है उसकी सहमति पूरी तरह से हर एक तफ्तील के बारे में न हो जाय तब तक हम इसको चालू नहीं कर सकते और मैं उसकी निश्चित तिथि बताने में इस समय असमर्थ हूँ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : अब तक सिक्किम सरकार ने जो दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है क्या उसके बारे में कुछ प्रकाश डाला जा सकता है कि वह क्या क्या अधिकार इस संबंध में चाहती है ?

डा० कैसकर : मैं इस सम्बन्ध में अभी कुछ नहीं कह सकता क्योंकि बातचीत चल रही है और मैं अगर यह बताऊँ कि आज तक क्या बातचीत हुई तो आगे जो बातचीत होगी उस पर उसका असर पड़ सकता है।