

Mr. Speaker: Let the statement be made: I will allow questions.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: You will remember, Sir, that you were pleased to say on an earlier occasion in this session that if the cotton textile prices did not come down by the end of this month, you would allow a discussion. He is making a statement in the last week of the session. When shall we discuss it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): If you allow any discussion two or three days before the session comes to a close. I shall gladly accept it.

Mr. Speaker: Let the statement be made. If there is to be further elucidation, they can ask questions, or they can have further discussions.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: This is a pertinent question whether the price are still ruling high. What is the information of the hon. Minister?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I think the hon. Member may wait for a statement. There are some fabrics the prices of which have gone down: the others are steady. There is no point in going into those details now.

Smuggling of Automobiles into China

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*961. { **Shri Mahanty:**
 Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a highly placed official of foreign firm recently visited India to investigate into alleged smuggling of hundreds of automobiles into China by bit through India;

(b) whether Government collaborated with his investigations; and

(c) if so, what are the findings?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Mahanty: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the publication of a news item under the caption "big racket in automobiles" published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Calcutta on 29th November, 1960 alleging that quite a number of automobiles had been smuggled to Tibet across India?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Our attention has been drawn to it and we have made the necessary enquiries regarding the allegations. All our reports are in the negative.

Shri Mahanty: May I know from what sources the Government of India have made their enquiries?

Mr. Speaker: From what source did the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* get the information?... (*Interruptions.*) I am really surprised. The Government is entitled to choose its own agencies or send somebody. Shall we go into these details? The hon. Member seems to have greater regard and confidence in an item published in a newspaper than in the Government which is responsible and which has made enquiries into the matter. I am surprised at the manner in which questions are put here. Greater credence is given to some newspaper report than even to the Government of India.

Shri Mahanty: There will be nothing to be surprised at if I complete my submission. There is no question of putting greater reliance on a paper as stated. I asked a question and the hon. Minister replied 'no'. It is a newspaper report. It is open to the Government to say that they have enquired from the firms or from the importers, etc. which have been mentioned in the news report.

Mr. Speaker: But has the hon. Member asked the newspaper people as to from where they have got that information? Government is responsible and they know: they have made enquiries from reliable quarters. Can the hon. Member say that they should send some servant or something else

should be done?... (*Interruptions.*) Order, order. The hon. Member has on more to ask.

Shri Goray: In the newspaper report to which there has been a reference it has been very clearly stated that this firm in the automobile industry sent its representatives here and after making preliminary enquiries they sought the help of the Central Government and the Central Government also gave them help in carrying on the investigation. Is it true or not?

Mr. Speaker: Was the Central Government approached?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: All these allegations have been denied.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): As has been stated in reply, we have enquired from the normal sources of information that we have. Apart from the normal intelligence sources as the Controller of Exports and Imports and our Political Officer in Sikkim, these things, if they go, have to go through one narrow road the Nathula Pass. They cannot easily be hidden. I do not know but the report has dealt with some past period some years back.

Shri Goray: 1953-55. They have said that during the two years, 1953-55, they were dismantled to bits and then these bits were transported.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know but in the question the year is not mentioned. Seven years ago, it may be possible that some parts of cars or cars in parts went over there. But for a long time past, nothing of this kind has happened. The news item gives a completely wrong impression: it talks about hundreds of cars. If one merely calculated how hundreds of cars can go there, in that pass, one will arrive at an incredible result. In 1953-54, it is quite possible that some parts of cars went there.

Mr. Speaker: If only I had known that it related to 1953-55, I would not

have admitted this question.

Shri Hem Barua: It is said in the report that smuggling went on during 1953-55. It further says that a sort of a review was undertaken by the foreign firm and the Government was co-operating with it. Is the State Government co-operating with it or is it the Central Government? They are very definite about it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is only explaining what has been said already. The hon. Minister has said that the Central Government has absolutely nothing to do with it. From their enquiries, they say that no smuggling takes place. If it is an old question, the hon. Members must state it. We are dealing only with current problems in the Question Hour. Is it to be utilised to obtain information of what happened eight years ago? ... (*Interruptions.*) Order order. The hon. Member made me infer that it was going on even now. I was anxious. I got a chit from the hon. Member saying: this is a very important matter and therefore it should be taken up. I was anxious to rush through so that this question may be reached but it so happens that it relates to an old period.

Shri Mahanty: Some time back, the hon. Prime Minister said on the floor of this House that foodgrains were being smuggled to the China region from India. Therefore it is a continuing matter. You find the continuing pattern of the smuggling of strategic materials from India.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Village Housing Projects Scheme

*946. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many technical persons have been trained, institution-wise,