

CASH AWARD TO DR. KITCHLEW FROM GOVERNMENT OF SOVIET UNION

*782. **Shri N. R. Naidu:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew an Indian National, has been the recipient of a cash award from the Government of the Soviet Union?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Yes. He is reported to have received the Stalin Prize which includes a cash award.

Shri N. R. Naidu: In view of the fact that our Constitution prohibits an Indian citizen from receiving titles and honours from foreign powers, does it affect the citizenship of Dr. Kitchlew?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: According to Article 18, sub-section (2) of our Constitution, our nationals are debarred from accepting any title from any foreign country; awards do not come under this clause.

IMPORT OF PENCILS

*783. **Shri N. R. Naidu:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether a Newspaper magnate of South India has been given licence to import a large quantity of pencils from Japan?

(b) If so, what is the quantity imported, the quality of the pencils and the rate at which they are being sold in India?

(c) Have Government enquired as to the cost price of the pencils in Japan and assessed the margin of profit?

(d) Is it a fact that it was hitherto the policy of Government to discourage import of pencils from abroad?

(e) If so, when was this policy reversed and how many other import licences have been issued?

(f) Was the Newspaper magnate who now received the licence formerly in pencil trade?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No licence has been issued to any Newspaper magnate of South India. A licence was, however, issued to Messrs. Express Newspaper Ltd., Madras, during January-June 1952, licensing period for Rs. 50,000 on their application which had been routed through the Secretary, Eastern and Indian Newspapers Society Ltd

(b) The quantity actually imported and the exact quality of the pencils are not known. Information is also not available about the rate at which such pencils are sold in India. Licence in this case was issued to Express Newspaper Ltd. to enable them to meet their own requirements and in accordance with the conditions of the licence the pencils cannot be sold.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). The policy has generally been to regulate imports with reference to quantity and/or quality.

(f) Does not arise.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the international requirements of pencils and the extent to which they are met from indigenous production?

Shri Karmarkar: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the quantity for which import licence was given in this case?

Shri Karmarkar: For Rs. 50,000.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What was the number of pencils?

Shri Karmarkar: It varies with the price at which pencils are purchased. Our licences are issued in terms of value and not in terms of quantity.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware, Sir, as to how many grosses of pencils have been imported?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir; as I said in answer to part (b) of the question, we are not aware of it.

ELECTRICITY BOARDS

*787. **Shri Gidwan:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that except Madhya Pradesh and Delhi States, Government Electricity Boards have not been formed by other State Governments as required by the Electricity Supply Act, 1948?

(b) Why has there been delay in the formation of the Boards in these States?

(c) What action has been taken by the Government of India to see that the State Governments form the Boards?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For various reasons. Some of the States are so underdeveloped that they feel that the setting up of an