

CHEAP RADIO SETS

*352. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian concerns have made representations to Government to encourage the production of cheap radio sets and give assistance to Indian concerns which are in a position to produce such sets; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decisions and formulated their policy on this subject?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) and (b). No such representations have been received. Recently one firm did inform Government that it had been able to manufacture cheap radio sets, but that firm did not ask for any particular assistance.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the representation contained a request that the Government should encourage medium wave sets which are cheaper, so that the people might get these receivers?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir. I can only say that they did not ask for any particular assistance.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether this firm which had sent a representation also sent a sample of the cheap radio set they had prepared? And is the Government satisfied with the working of it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not seen it. Perhaps the set has been sent to the Development Wing. But it is not Government's province to declare an opinion on the particular set because that would mean that we are giving undue privilege to one particular concern as against other concerns who are competing.

PENCILS (PRODUCTION)

*354. **Shri S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a fall in overall actual production of

pencils in 1952 as compared to that in 1951;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the trends in production till October, 1953?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One of the reasons for the fall in production is apparently the lack of demand for indigenous product.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 43.]

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, what was the import figure for the year 1951?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: 19,11,510 dozens.

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether Government have satisfied themselves that the import policy does not operate to the advantage of imports of pencils?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the import policy has been changing from time to time. The hon. Member perhaps is not aware that since March this year, the duty has been raised steeply, from 31½ per cent. to 66-2/3 per cent., which gives a very effective cover against any advantage the importer may have. On the top of it, we also insist that anybody who wants to import pencils should not import pencils which are cheaper than Rs. 16 per gross. That is intended also to cover the local manufacturers so that only the costly type of pencils will come in. The matter, Sir, is constantly under review and Government is keenly watching the situation.

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know what steps do Government propose to take to enable the industry to work to full capacity?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, so far as regulation of imports is concerned, any variations in policy

that Government might make from time to time cannot be disclosed ahead, because speculators might make use of it. That is about the only thing that we could do. But in regard to the question of quality improvement question of supplying them with materials—at the moment, they are in a better position than what they used to be, because they are using locally made slates for their pencils. As regards the third stage of improvement which they can make—all that they need in this country. We have not yet reached that stage.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the pencils used in the Central Government offices and State Government offices are of the indigenous make?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I think that question must be addressed to the Supply department

Shri S. N. Mishra: It seems the production has gone down by more than half. Do Government think it necessary to take some special steps?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, all steps that we take are special steps in regard to this particular industry. And I have said that the matter is being constantly watched. In fact, this morning I interviewed one of the pencil manufacturers.

GOA

*355. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main port of Goa (Mormugoa) is now being reconstructed and fortified; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that military aerodromes have recently been built in the port area and on the Bambolim plateau?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). There has been some normal development of Mormugoa port involving construction of a sixth wharf to handle increased traffic in ores. Government have no information about

the building of fortifications or military aerodromes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether this development which has just been mentioned is being done by Portuguese money, or, is Portugal being aided and assisted by any foreign power with a view to creating military bases there?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We have no information on that.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India have been informed in advance about the development of this port and whether the Government are also aware of the fact that the Portuguese authorities have from time to time been declaring that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation extends also to their foreign territories? May I also know whether the Government of India are going to recognise that?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: As far as we know, NATO does not apply to this Portuguese possession of Goa. As far as fortifications are concerned, we have reports that there are no fortifications and so far nothing has been done in that regard. We have a Consul-General in Goa and a Vice-Consul in Mormugoa and according to their reports, there are no fortifications

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: What is Government's reaction to the reported disclosure by the President of the Goan National Conference that Goa is being developed into a strong military base with American aid?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We have no information about that.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the President of the Goan Peoples Party made a statement in Bombay that American bases are being permitted there and scores of Americans are coming into Goa and so many bases are being made by the Japanese firms there?