

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 3rd June, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shri N. S. Nair: Sir, on a point of information may I know whether the Secretariat or the Speaker can disallow, questions without assigning any reasons whatsoever?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will see that the Secretary does not allow or disallow questions. The position must be clear to the hon. Member as also other Members of this House. The Secretary only looks at the questions, examines them and if necessary amends them but these are all only recommendations to the Speaker. It is the Speaker who finally allows or disallows questions and I can assure the hon. Member that I do not merely go on signing them. It is a huge burden on me to go through hundreds of questions, look to their language and their admissibility and all the rest of it. The hon. Member need not labour under the impression he seems to be under.

Shri N. S. Nair: Have I a right to get the reasons why my questions are disallowed?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. If any Member is dissatisfied and wants to know the reasons, he should approach the Secretary in the first instance and if he is still dissatisfied with what the Secretary explains to him, the hon. Member can always come to me in my chamber.

Shri N. S. Nair: I approached the Secretary in one instance, where I was told that the Speaker had disallowed

the question. There are other questions disallowed for which no answer has been given.....

Mr. Speaker: It is no use arguing that point in general. He may come to specific questions in respect of which he is dissatisfied or has any dissatisfaction with the explanation which the Secretary may give. If I were to sit again over reconsideration of every question, probably I need not enter the House at all but only sit in the Chamber the whole time dealing with questions only. Questions are disallowed for many reasons into which I need not go at present. I agree that he is entitled to know the reasons why any question of his is disallowed but he also should know that on that point the Speaker's decision is final and he will accept it as binding on him.

MATCH INDUSTRY

*382. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Excise Superintendent, Lahriarasai allowed export of matches to Nepal in Jainagar and fixed the local inspector to certify the export for rebate purposes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Mithila Match Company exported matches and produced certificates of export from the Inspector and Nepal Customs office and still were not allowed rebate;

(c) whether it is a fact that Jainagar has been made a Lands Customs outpost also under the said Central Excise staff for purposes of rebate of import duty realised at sea customs port which is done on certification of entry by the local staff;

(d) whether it is a fact that this facility is not granted with respect to Central Excise match duty passing through Jainagar outpost as regards Indian Match Companies?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): Presumably, the hon.

Member is referring to consignments of matches exported, early in 1950, to Nepal by the Mithila Match Factory, in respect of which rebate of excise duty was refused by the Central Excise Department on the ground that the prescribed export applications were not countersigned by the Indian Embassy at Khatmandu as required by the Central Excise Rules, 1944. The answer to the question is as follows:

(a) Yes; the Inspector of Central Excise posted at Jainagar examined the consignments of the matches in question, and the seals of the Central Excise Department affixed thereon, before export to Nepal, and he recorded a certificate to this effect on the export application forms.

(b) Yes; but, in the absence of the prescribed certificate from the Indian Embassy at Khatmandu, neither the certificate of the Inspector of Central Excise, Jainagar, nor the certificate of the Nepal Customs authorities, was sufficient to establish the claim for rebate in accordance with the Rules.

(c) Border outposts were established at Jainagar and other places, for purposes of regulating movement of goods in transit from and to Nepal through Indian Territory with effect from the 1st November 1950, according to the treaty of Trade and Commerce between the Governments of India and Nepal. Those outposts, however, could not function, as certain administrative arrangements under the treaty could not be completed by the Nepal Government. The customs outpost at Jainagar and other places on the Nepal border still remain closed and rebate of import duty realised at Sea Customs ports is granted only after production of the goods before the Indian Embassy at Khatmandu.

(d) Rebate of excise duty is granted on all exports to Nepal of matches manufactured in India, if they are exported, and proof of export is furnished in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Central Excise Rules, 1944. An essential part of the procedure is the production of the goods before the Indian Embassy at Khatmandu for physical identification and certification.

श्री एस० एन० दास : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जिस समय सेंट्रल एक्साइज ड्यूटी रिटर्न ने मिथिला मैच फैक्टरी को नेपाल में मैच बनाने की अनुमति दी उस समय उन को यह बात बता दी गई थी कि एम्बेसेडर से काउंटर साइन कराना होगा ?

[**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether, at the time of Mithila Match Factory being allowed to export matches to Nepal by the Central Excise Superintendent, the factory was informed that it would have to get the export application forms countersigned by the Indian Ambassador?]

श्री त्यागी : यह तो मुझ को मालूम नहीं लेकिन यह रूख गड़बड़ हो गये हैं और सब लोगों को मालूम है कि जो सामान नेपाल को जाता है उस पर एकसाइज ड्यूटी वापस करने का तरीका यह है कि इस बात का सर्टीफिकेट लिया जाय कि काठमांडू तक वह चीज पहुंच गई, और उसके बाद ही रिफंड मिल सकता है।

[**Shri Tyagi:** That I do not know, but, as everyone knows, rules have been published in the Gazette which prescribe that the correct procedure of claiming rebate of excise duty is that a certificate to the effect that the goods have been delivered in Kathmandu should be produced. Only then can the rebate be granted.]

श्री एस० एन० दास : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि जो सामान काठमांडू जाता है उसी पर एकसाइज का रिबेट दिया जाता है या कि जो सामान नेपाल में दूसरी जगहों पर जाता है उस पर भी रिबेट दिया जाता है ?

[**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether such rebate of excise duty is granted with respect to goods sent to Kathmandu alone or to those sent anywhere in Nepal?]

श्री त्यागी : नेपाल टैरिटरी में कहीं भी सामान जाय रिबेट सब पर दिया जाता है। लेकिन हर एक्साइजेबिल सामान का काठमांडू पहुंचना और उस पर सर्टीफिकेट लिया जाना इसलिए जरूरी है कि काठमांडू पहुंचने में इतना किराया लग जाता है कि कोई शख्स वहां पहुंचने के बाद उस सामान को हिन्दुस्तान वापस नहीं ला सकता। इसी हिकाजत की वजह से वहाँ पहुंचने पर सर्टीफिकेट लिया जाता है।

[**Shri Tyagi:** The rebate is granted with respect to goods sent anywhere in Nepal. The necessity of ensuring that all excisable goods have reached Kathmandu and hence of obtaining certificate to that effect arises only due to the fact that their transport to Kathmandu involves enough expenditure so as to render its bringing back to India much too uneconomic. It is for the sake of that very precaution that the certificate has to be obtained on arrival there.]

श्री एस० एन० दास : क्या जो बाहर का सामान हिन्दुस्तान में हो कर नेपाल जाता है उस पर भी रिबेट मिलने के लिए यही नियम लागू है कि एम्बेसेडर से सर्टीफिकेट काउंटरसाइन कराया जाय ?

[**Shri S. N. Das:** Does the necessity of such a certificate being counter-signed by the Ambassador arise also in the case of foreign goods that go to Nepal via India, before a rebate could be claimed?]

श्री त्यागी : जी हाँ, उस के लिए भी यही नियम है।

[**Shri Tyagi:** Yes, Sir, it does.]

UNAUTHORISED IMPORTS

*383. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the value of properties confiscated by the Customs Authorities for unauthorised imports during 1951-52;

(b) the value of fine recovered in lieu of confiscation; and

(c) the value of confiscated goods sold and the price realised?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) The value of properties confiscated by the Customs authorities for unauthorised imports during 1951-52 is Rs. 3,17,76,600 approximately.

(b) The amount of fines recovered in lieu of confiscation is Rs. 64,33,500 approximately.

(c) The appraised value of the confiscated goods sold is Rs. 21,44,000 approximately and the price realised so far is Rs. 20,77,100 approximately.

Shri Hukam Singh: Does this amount of Rs. 3 crores include all the confiscations at the land customs posts?

Shri Tyagi: Yes, Sir.

Shri Hukam Singh: Whether there were any confiscation of the articles of import which were first put on the O.G.L. and when commitments had been made subsequently were brought under some licence?

Shri Tyagi: If the hon. Member has information about some particular goods and tells me, then I may make enquiries. There may probably be some such goods, but the matter has to be investigated.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: What are the articles which are imported illegally and how much and from which country? How do those articles compare with the authorised imports?

Shri Tyagi: The articles so imported are numerous. They are imported against section 18 of the Sea Customs Act, under which import of certain goods is prohibited altogether. There are some commodities which have been notified under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act, whereby Government prohibits or restricts the import of certain articles from time to time. There are the Import and Export Control Acts, the Dangerous Drugs Act, the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. There are so many commodities the import of which is altogether prohibited or restricted.

BRAILLE SCRIPT

*384. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any International Conference was convened to study the possibility of evolving a single Braille Script for the World; and

(b) whether there is a common Braille code for our country?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes, Sir. Three International Conferences were convened by UNESCO to study the possibility of evolving a single Braille script for the world.

(b) Yes, Sir. The common Braille code for Indian languages is known as Bharati Braille.

Shri Hukam Singh: What was the result of the deliberations of that Conference? Was any common Braille Code evolved for the whole world or not?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not yet. Efforts are being made still.