

import of machinery will be considered favourably.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: One of the reasons advanced for modernisation had been that there will be better quality of good and the cost will go down. Now the hon. Minister has replied that he is unable to give us an overall picture of the 400 units that are in the country. May I know in what way the Government proposes to assess the overall picture as to whether modernisation actually has been successful to the degree to which it had been promised?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid the hon. friend's attention, so far as what is going on in this House is concerned, is fitful. If she had heard me answer a question that was put by another hon. friend here, she would have understood that an attempt is being made by Government to make an assessment mill-wise in regard to the quality of the machinery and all other things that go incidentally with it so far as production is concerned. We hope to be able to complete this assessment, perhaps, in the course of another 18 months and, when we do that, we shall perhaps be in a better position to give a full picture to hon. Members of this House or its successors.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I make a submission, Sir? When answering to any question, is it right and proper for any Minister or any Member of this House to make personal attacks on a person as to whether that person has listened to it fully or not?

Mr. Speaker: I can only say that the hon. Minister can always say that he has answered the question and the hon. Member has not heard it or has not attended to it; of course, no strong language need be used.

Shri C.D. Pande: In view of the fact that in the Second Five Year Plan we estimate our production or consumption up to 10,000 million yards of cloth and we produce only 6,600 million yards so far, how far is it desirable to restrict the establishment of looms to the extent of spinning capacity of the mill alone; otherwise there will be no possibility of increasing the supply of cloth?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend has asked me a question which goes into the very root of the matter. The policy of the Government is really to decentralise production and all that we have at the present moment conceded is that the decentralised production might be by means of power. I have said the other day that, maybe that we do not completely freeze the expansion of mill production so far as

weaving is concerned, but it is a definite policy that the expanded demand for cloth that will arise in the country during the next 10 years must be met, in a large measure, by decentralised production.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the criterion on which these licences for modernisation are given to individual mills?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, as I said, so far as the spinning frame stage is concerned, no discretion is exercised. People can import machinery and the only limitation is protection of local manufacture of textile machinery. So far as the question of introducing new looms is concerned, the condition is that there should be no displacement of labour and satisfaction must be provided to the State Governments that no displacement of labour will ensue.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether this modernisation will, to some extent, lead to the reduction in the production of coarse and medium cloth?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the hon. Member mean modernisation in regard to weaving?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Yes.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As a matter of fact, I understand that the introduction of automatic looms in regard to coarse and medium cloth will probably result in a very small reduction whereas it means a larger reduction in the case of super-fine and fine varieties. But this is a matter of technical opinion and I will not vouchsafe for the correctness of it.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I find one difficulty. I have spent ten minutes over this question. Now, there are 51 questions on this list. Therefore, whichever hon. Member wants to take part must rise in the first instance so that I may fix up my mind upon a few. I may give them a chance on one question, to others on another question and so on. I cannot call all the 499 Members on the same question. In spite of my disagreeing with hon. Members I am sorry I am not able to allow all Members to take part.

Durgapur Steel Plant

*561. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 452 on the 5th March, 1956 and state whether the enquiry into the allegations against the official-in-charge of Durgapur Steel Plant has been completed?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : No, Sir, Not yet.

Shri Gidwani : Is it a fact that officer, Shri K.L. Sahi, was arrested under the false plea that he was Col. Amrik Singh who was once an absconder and had murdered his wife, and who had been sentenced to life imprisonment by the Punjab High Court?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Well, Sir, these facts do not come within the purview of my knowledge.

Shri Gidwani : Is it a fact that the official protested against the high-handedness and that a report was made by Shri Boothalingam, I.C.S., Secretary in the Ministry of Iron and Steel, headed "Shri Sahi, Project Engineer under suspension" and signed by him on the 7th April, 1956, in which the above allegations have been admitted and, if so, whether the Government will lay a copy of the report on the Table of the House?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : So far as this particular matter is concerned, I would beg of my hon. friend not to make it an enquiry against me, which is apparently what he has in mind. I would like to say that this officer was appointed and within a very short time we found that he was not discharging his duties and that he was exceeding his powers. An enquiry was started and at every stage he has been blocking it. The enquiry is continuing. I think from my point of view I should say that we are not getting any co-operation regarding the completion of the enquiry. Beyond that, I am not in a position to say at the present moment.

Shri Gidwani : May I know whether the report was made by the Secretary to the Ministry admitting these allegations?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Government have never admitted it. What is the object of my hon. friend putting words into my mouth?

Shrimati Renu Chakrawarty : The hon. Minister said that he is not getting any co-operation;—co-operation from whom? Is it from the State Government or from any other body?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : Co-operation from the person about whom an enquiry is being made.

Shri Gidwani : Is it a fact that the officer concerned has requested for the judicial enquiry, alleging that he was prepared to prove the defalcation of huge sums in which other officers are involved, and if so, may I know whether the Government have taken any decision on the matter?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : No,

Mr. Speaker : The enquiry is proceeding against the particular officer. What is the use of putting questions as to whether he will be given opportunity, this and that, etc. Though it is not *subjudice*, I would say that let us wait and see. After the enquiry is made, the thing will be clear. This is not a court of appeal. Such questions may embarrass them, though strictly, it is not *sub judice* but the matter is equally important so far as that officer is concerned and so far as the Government is concerned. Why should the hon. Member pursue the matter by asking whether the officer concerned has been given the opportunity for judicial enquiry, this and that, leading the Government to say that he is blocking at every stage? Why should anybody be subject to any such reproach now?

Shri Gidwani : It is quite a serious matter. The allegation is that Rs. 27 lakhs have been defalcated. Why should the Government take so much time? If the officer does not co-operate, then let the Government proceed further with the work. It is not a private matter between the officer and the Government.

Mr. Speaker : It is not so. If it is a private matter, then the Government would not of course take any action against him. The hon. Member may ask, "Why should not the matter be expedited" and so on. Why should he go further and ask questions such as, "Has the officer given the opportunity" or this and that? It helps more for the defence of the man, than for the enquiry by Government.

Shri Gidwani : We should like to know....

Mr. Speaker : I am not going to allow any more questions on this subject.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : If the hon. Speaker will permit me to say, I may say that this question of defalcation to the extent of Rs. 27 lakhs is terribly exaggerated, because we have not spent that much of amount on the project, yet.

सड़क परिवहन निगम

५६३. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या योजना मंत्री २३ अप्रैल, १९५६ के तारकित प्रश्न संख्या १६५५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) योजना आयोग ने सड़क परिवहन निगम बनाने का जो सुझाव दिया था उसके बारे में क्या कुछ और राज्य सरकारों ने अपने विचार भेज दिये हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उनका विवरण क्या है ?