

Berhampore because it draws inspiration from a leftist political party;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether he has received representations requesting him not to shift the Headquarters and also not to withdraw recognition of the union; and

(e) if so, action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). In view of the answers for (b) & (c), (d) & (e) do not arise in so far as recognition of the employees association at Berhampore is concerned.

As regards the shifting of the Headquarters of Central Silk Board from Bombay to Bangalore, representations have been received. Although the proposal to shift the Headquarters was not considered feasible earlier due to these representations and the views of the Government of Maharashtra, after careful consideration of all aspects of the matter, have now come to the conclusion that in the long-term and over-all interest of development of Sericulture Industry in the Country, the Head quarters of the Silk Board should be shifted to Bangalore from Bombay.

छोटे समाचार पत्रों को उत्पादन शुल्क से छूट दिया जाना

1846. श्री एन. के. शंभरकर : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(व) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा समाचार पत्रों पर लगाए गए 15 प्रतिशत उत्पादन-शुल्क से छोटे समाचार पत्रों को छूट दिए जाने के बारे में संसद में कोई वास्तविक विचार चलाया था; यदि

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(ख) यदि हा, तो इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सवाई सिंह सिंसोबिया) : (क) तथा (ख). देश में आयात किए जाने वाले सभी तरह के अखबारी कागजों पर, आयातकर्ताओं की श्रेणी का ध्यान रखे बिना, मूल्यानुसार सीमाशुल्क 15 प्रतिशत (10 प्रतिशत) मूल+5 प्रतिशत उपसंगी की दर से उद्ग्रहणीय है ।

वित्त मंत्री ने वित्त विधेयक पर विचार करते समय यह घोषणा की थी कि भारतीय राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा विभेदी मूल्य की एक ऐसी योजना बनाई जायेगी । जिसके तहत छोटे समाचार पत्रों द्वारा आयातित अखबारी कागज पर अदा किए जाने वाले मूल्य पर कोई आयात शुल्क नहीं लगेगा; मध्यम स्तर के समाचार पत्रों द्वारा अदा किए जाने वाले मूल्य पर केवल 5 प्रतिशत के हिसाब से आयात शुल्क लगेगा और बड़े समाचार-पत्रों द्वारा अदा किए जाने वाले मूल्य पर मूल्यानुसार 15 प्रतिशत समस्त शुल्क लगेगा । इस तरह से, छोटे समाचार-पत्रों को पूर्ण राहत देने और मध्यम स्तर के समाचार-पत्रों को आंशिक राहत देने का लक्ष्य बनाया गया था । राज्य व्यापार निगम ने उक्त निर्णय को लागू करते हुए 22-6-1981 को एक विभेदी मूल्य योजना की घोषणा की है ।

Probe into Gold Auction

1847. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated 26th June, 1981 wherein the former Reserve Bank Governor who probed into gold auction cases has sought a fresh probe into the gold auction done by the Janata Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 1100 bidders all did not have enough

financial standing to bid and they were mere name lenders in relation to these purchases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of the amount debited to the financiers' account, Rs. 28 crore had been debited to 20 individuals and firms alone; and

(d) if the above facts are true, whether Government would institute a full probe into the whole affairs of gold auction to find out whether it had gone to help a few families and not the small goldsmiths or the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) The Government has noticed the news-item.

(b) to (d). In para 1.5 of Shri K. R. Puri's Report on the sale by auctions in 1978 of gold held on Government Account it has been stated that in view of the inherent limitations under which he had to work the Government may like to pursue the matter indicated by him in para 14.7 of the Report through the concerned authorities.

In paras 14.5 to 14.7, it is stated that on enquiry it has been noticed that the sale of 5.6 tonnes of gold valued at Rs. 37.4 crores had been shown against 1101 bidders. Out of the above mentioned quantity of gold, around 4 tonnes of gold valued at Rs. 26.7 crores was financed by a group of 20 individuals/firms (in the report referred to as syndicate). The balance of 1.6 tonnes of gold valued at Rs. 10.7 crores was purchased by the bidders through finances procured by them. The syndicate made a direct purchase of 0.17 tonnes of gold valued at Rs. 1.14 crores by participating in the auctions. It has been observed that the financing by the syndicate was made possible by the active connivance and assistance of a group of financially strong and powerful bullion merchants of Bombay. It is accordingly stated that a *prima facie* strong suspicion is created that the 1101 bidders had been mere name lenders in rela-

tion to the purchase of around 4 tonnes of gold valued at Rs. 26.7 crores and the above mentioned quantity of gold can be said to have been cornered by the syndicate.

To enable the Government to make further investigations, Shri Puri has forwarded a secret note containing various details. The information furnished in this note is being passed on to the Investigative agencies of the Department of Revenue for further action. In the interest of effective investigation, it is not expedient to disclose the details. Appropriate action would be taken under the respective laws on the basis of the results of these investigations.

Fixation of Quota for Garment Export

1848. **SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the basis, system and policy adopted to fix quota for garment export for Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore and Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): The policy for allotment of quota for exports of garments to various countries with which India has entered into bilateral agreements for this purpose is formulated on an All India basis. The quota policies for the Calendar years 1981 and 1982 were announced vide Public Notice No. 46-ETC(PN)/80-dated 28th July, 1981 and Public Notice No. 61-ETC(PN)/61 dated 10th August, 1981, respectively.

Rehabilitation of Persons Displaced due to Setting of Rourkela Steel Plant

1849. **SHRI CHRISTOPHER EKKA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons and the number of villages from which they have been displaced due to the setting up of the Rourkela Steel Plant;