

(d) Mill owners have not accepted the existing price of sugar as adequate to cover loss on exports contemplated during the current year.

**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** May I know what is the loss per maund to the sugar factories?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is said that our cost of production would come to round about Rs. 700 per metric ton whereas the international price, as I have already stated in the main answer, was about Rs. 400 metric ton in 1960.

**Mr. Speaker:** This was discussed only the day before yesterday. The hon. Minister himself dealt with it.

**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** May I know what arrangement Government have made to meet the per ton loss of the factory owners?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With regard to loss in exports, so far announced, there is sufficient margin within the ex-factory prices fixed in areas where they are enforceable, and prices realised by other factories to cover the loss incurred in exports.

#### Telephone Department

\*1639. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the general complaint that considerable time is taken by the telephone department in petty repair works, change of telephone from one place to another, installation of sanctioned telephone due to lack of stores and supplies and on account of inadequate powers to engineering supervisors in utilizing the stores or making local purchases; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** (a) I am aware of shortages of certain essential items of stores which result in delays to telephone works. The question of powers of staff has very little to do with these delays.

(b) These shortages are part of the general pattern of shortages of various items in the country at present, being due to limited manufacturing capacity within the country and also due to acute foreign exchange shortage. To the extent that our foreign exchange resources and general financial resources permit, imports of items locally in short supply are being made.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** May I know if it is not a fact that there is overlapping in the functions of the engineering and clerical staff, and since the supervisory engineering staff is burdened with clerical work, they are not able to pay attention to the installing work?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I do not admit the hon. gentleman's premises.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Is the Government going to put up another telephone factory in order to meet all this kind of shortages?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I was talking about wires, and not telephone instruments.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Is there any proposal under consideration to allow supervisors to make local purchases to a certain extent in order to expedite the installation and repair work, if the stores are short of the materials?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** Yes, Sir. We do make local purchases whenever the material is available locally.

#### Loan to Joint Steamer Companies

\*1640. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 564 on the 6th March, 1961 and state:

(a) the details of the scheme for which loan of Rs. 2 crores to the Joint Steamer Companies has been sanctioned; and

(b) the terms of repayment of the loan?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** (a)

The Joint Steamer Companies propose to construct 14 new self-propelled carriers and 6 harbour tugs to provide replacement for their over-aged fleet at a total estimated cost of Rs. 5.66 crores. Of this, a sum of Rs. 3.66 crores will be found by the Companies from their own resources and the balance of Rs. 2 crores will be advanced by Government in suitable instalments as a loan.

(b) The loan will be repayable in seven annual instalments (plus outstanding interest) commencing from 12 months after the payment to the Companies of the last instalment of the loan.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** In view of the very large profits earned by these joint steamer companies and the reserves that they have accumulated, why was it necessary for the Government to give them such a large loan?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I do not think the hon. gentleman is quite correct in saying that large profits have been made. On the other hand, all the steamers that they have in their possession are too old, and they have got to be replaced. They did not have enough capital of their own to replace them, and therefore they applied for a loan.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether it is true that, over and above these loans, quite substantial subsidies are also being given by the Government to these joint steamer companies?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** Yes, Sir. Sometimes, subsidies have to be given. Besides, these companies are not registered in India. That is why the trouble came about loans etc. They are registered in England, and they operate both in Pakistani and our waters. Therefore, there was some difficulty experienced with regard to the loans that are to be granted. That has all been got over.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether it is a fact that the joint steamer companies threatened the Government very systematically that they would

close down their services in the Brahmaputra and in the other rivers also if the Government did not come forward to help them financially, and that it was under duress that the Government was forced to offer this loan and a subvention also?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** There was no question of duress at all. The companies were not threatening us either, as the hon. gentleman presumes. I do not know where he got it from. We gave loan because we thought it was necessary.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I submit, Sir, that they did threaten and said that the services of the workers would be dispensed with. A deputation came here. I was a member of the deputation. It saw the Prime Minister and the then Minister of Transport and Communications over this.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I am not aware of all these deputations the hon. gentleman made to this city.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** This is a foreign company, operating both in India and Pakistan, and in their operations, very often they discriminate against India. So, may I know whether before allowing them a loan the Government has taken into consideration the profit earned by this company for so many years and the reserves accumulated?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** Yes, Sir. All these were examined, and we found they could not do the things that we wanted them to do of their own accord.

**Shri Tyagi:** What is the percentage or proportion of the loans granted against the total capital which the companies are investing, and how much has Pakistan advanced to them?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** As far as Pakistan is concerned, I do not have their accounts. So, I cannot say how much Pakistan has advanced to them.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** But they operate both in Pakistan and India. We are paying the money. The steamers will operate mostly in Pakistan. Will Pakistan pay any loan?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** They will also be paying money. What I said was I have not got the exact accounts of the Pakistan Government. Therefore, I cannot say how much they have advanced. I know what we have advanced, and we have not yet advanced any sum as such. We have promised Rs. 2 crores provided the steamers purchased are mortgaged to us towards our interest and our capital.

**Shri Tyagi:** How much are they investing? I want to know the proportion. They must have examined as to what their investment is. Then alone a loan is given.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** The hon. gentleman did not listen to my answer. They are going to pay in any case Rs. 3.66 crores; ours is Rs. 2 crores.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know the amount of profit that has been capitalised by these companies, the amount in reserve and the amount sent abroad as profit?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** This was all examined, and we found that they did not have enough reserve to buy the new ships that they wanted to.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May we know the profit earned by this company for all these years and also the reserve the company holds now? We should know these.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** I will get the information and place it on the Table of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Apart from the steamers, do they not take into account the assets of the company and their capacity to repay before the loan is granted?

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** They are incorporated in England. They operate in both countries. Their profit and loss account we got examined by our officers because we wanted to know the facts before we advanced the loan. But I have not got the figures here. As I said, I will get them and place them on the Table of the House.

### Peanut Butter

\*1642. **Shri Ram Shankar Lal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for preparation of Peanut butter by the Central Department of Food;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the nutritive value of such butter?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up an experimental unit for the development of peanut butter at Delhi where investigations in respect of the standardisation of the product and process under Indian conditions will be undertaken.

(c) A statement showing the nutritive value of peanut butter is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 80].

**Mr. Speaker:** What is this peanut butter? Is this different from Dalda?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is ground nut butter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The people will be satisfied if they are given Dalda.

### Colour Movie of A.I.I. London-Tokyo Boeing Route

\*1643. **Shri Jinachandran:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Japanese Film Company has been commissioned by Air India International to produce a 16 mm. colour movie of their London-Tokyo Boeing route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any approach was made to the Indian Film Companies to make this film; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?