

litigation going on. But we are getting ready with the plans in the hope that the land will come to us, and we shall put it into use as soon as the land is put in our possession.

Shri Anurobindo Ghosal: In view of the fact that this project is lying incomplete for the last several years, may I know whether any steps have been taken to expedite this matter, especially because some of the machinery and other articles are being damaged owing to this long delay?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There has not been a very long delay. The last instalment of the machines was received only in 1960, and the machinery have already been put into use. I said so in my original answer. There were difficulties in getting bulk supply of power from the West Bengal Government, but from the 1st August, we have got the power, and I understand that from the 3rd August, these machines have been put into use.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Is it not a fact that one of the buildings in Calcutta had been renovated and with the transfer of the Forms Press of the Government of India to Santragachi, will this building be used for the other press completely? Secondly, may I know what will be the cost of shifting this press to Santragachi?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is not the Forms Press which is being shifted. The Forms Press remains where it is. We have put up a new building there. It is only the Government of India Press which is located in Hastings Road, which is in a very old building over 100 years old, that is being removed to Santragachi.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: He has not answered my question.

Mr. Speaker: She wants to know the cost of shifting.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The cost of shifting is the cost of transport of the machinery and the cost of the building.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: What is that cost?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want that it ought not to be shifted?

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: If the shifting is necessary, will the transport be free? What is the object of putting this question? Let us go to the next question.

Postal System in Bhutan

*1225. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bhutan propose to set up an organised postal system and print their own stamps;

(b) whether the Government of India have been approached to give assistance in this connection;

(c) if so, the details of the request; and

(d) the nature of assistance, if any, given by the Government of India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) The Government of India have no information.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Import of Cartridges from Poland

*1226. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation has secured licence for import of cartridges from Poland;

(b) if so, what is the method of distribution;

(c) whether it will be through members of the Bombay Arms Dealers Association or through Kirkee Ammunition Factory;

(d) whether there is any change in the method of distribution; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to distribute the cartridges through the Indian agents of the Polish supplier, namely M/s. Garg Armoury (P) Ltd., Delhi, to actual users such as Rifle Clubs. The distribution and prices will be controlled by the State Trading Corporation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether it is not a fact that there is already a proper method of distribution through the various members of this organisation in Bombay; and, if so, what is the special reason for giving it only to one licensee?

Shri Kanungo: The reason is, as I have already stated in my reply, that this particular firm was and still continues to be the sole agents of the Polish monopoly of arms supply and they insist that distribution should be done through this firm. The STC has taken this precaution that it should be distributed to rifle clubs and such other institutions at controlled prices.

Shri Tangamani: What is the value of shot-gun cartridges which were imported as a result of licences which were granted to STC from Poland?

Shri Kanungo: Rs. 2 lakhs.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the production of cartridges in our ammunition factories is not sufficient to meet the country's demand for sporting purposes?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir, it is not adequate at all.

Shri C. D. Pande: It is often said that there is lot of spare capacity in the industrial instalments of the Defence Ministry. This matter is purely within the range of that Ministry. May I

know why this ammunition which is used by civilians is not manufactured there—not only ammunition but also arms?

Shri Kanungo: These are ammunitions which have been imported in the past also. As far as the manufacturing capacity in India is concerned, I am not competent to answer.

Shri C. D. Pande: That is no justification. It cannot be said that because we imported it in the past we are continuing to import the same. In the past we imported so many things, but today we want to be self-sufficient and there should be sufficient installed capacity in India.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): We have drawn the attention of the Defence Ministry and also the Defence Minister. He has assured us that he is taking special steps to see, as the hon. Member rightly said, that the spare capacity in the defence establishments is used to produce the cartridges and ammunitions required for India.

Shri Tyagi: May I know what calibre of cartridges are they, and is it a fact that this very calibre of cartridges are already being manufactured by the ordnance factories, there are huge stocks lying with them and they are not being supplied to the market?

Shri Kanungo: That is not my information.

Shri Tyagi: What type of cartridges are they? What calibre of cartridges are they? Are they 1.2 or are they 2.2?

Shri Kanungo: My information is that these ammunitions are for sporting guns.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether the Government is permitting import of arms for sporting purposes when they are allowing the import of ammunitions?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir; this is a part of a trade agreement with the Polish Government.

Shri Tyagi: Is it open for the private parties to start a factory for manufacture of such type of cartridges in India, or are they always to be imported from outside?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is not to be allowed in the private sector; it is to be done by ordnance factories or the defence establishments. I can assure the House that we have drawn the attention of the Defence Ministry and they are proceeding in this matter. Any further question, Sir, if I may be permitted to say so, may be asked to the Defence Ministry.

Shri Sampath: May I know the reason why cartridges are not supplied to private licensees who are not members of rifle clubs?

Shri Kanungo: The idea is that it should be distributed through institutions so that the price control can be maintained.

Shri Tyagi: May I know for how many years this commitment has been made with the Polish Government?

Shri Kanungo: For one year.

Shri Vajpayee: Sir, Government have been claiming from time to time that they are taking measures to manufacture arms and ammunitions in India. May I know how this import is being justified?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Once again the same question is being put. The hon. Minister of Commerce was not aware of it, but the other hon. Minister, the Minister of Industry, replied that the Defence Ministry had been contacted and steps are being taken by them to produce this. Overnight everything cannot be produced.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The question arises, Sir, are there two governments functioning? It was said that the Defence Ministry had been contacted. On such a vital matter they should have consulted each other and come before the House with the proper reply.

Shri Kanungo: This is not a vital question at all; these are only sporting ammunitions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. In that case, I can only ask every hon. Minister to answer every question. Then there is no specialisation at all. The work is distributed between different hon. Ministers. One hon. Minister knows about the subject allotted to him. If the hon. Member wants the other hon. Minister also to keep quiet saying that it is the concern of the Defence Ministry alone, I have no objection. But I try to get as much information as possible. It is not as if every day I can ask every hon. Minister to come here. Then there is no need for distribution of work every week. Hon. Members ought not to go on putting questions of this kind. What is the good of it. If a question is very important and if the hon. Minister concerned thinks that he may not be able to answer that question fully on the floor of the House, I would suggest that he may get the full information from his other colleague and be ready as far as possible. That is all that I can suggest. I will not quarrel with any hon. Minister who is not here out of turn, if it is not his turn to be present here.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: My point was this. They have entered into an agreement with the Polish Government. Why did they not consult the Defence Ministry before they came to the conclusion that they have to enter into an agreement with the Polish Government?

Shri Tyagi: May I, Sir, give this House some information? The manufacture of these ammunitions had already been taken up about four years ago in the ordnance factories. I know it for a fact.

Shri A. C. Guba: Is it not the policy of the Government, particularly in view of the shortage of foreign exchange, that before issuing any import licence the relevant Ministry is also consulted?

Shri Kanungo: Yes.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri K. C. Reddy): I would

like to assure the House that it is not the policy of the Government to import any commodity which we can produce indigenously. My hon. colleague has already stated that the Defence Ministry has already been consulted, has already been sounded in this regard and the Ministry of Defence is taking all possible steps to produce this commodity in the country itself. Till it is produced in the country by the Ministry of Defence in the ordnance factories, it is because of inescapable necessity that we are importing this quantity worth Rs. 2 lakhs. Moreover, this contract is only for a period of one year.

Shri Tangamani: Is it not a fact that the smaller shot-gun cartridges are at present being manufactured in the ammunition factory at Kirkee; if so, I would like to know what is the capacity of that factory and whether in the matter of distribution the distribution of the Kirkee factory also will be utilised?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Under the division of subjects, Sir, if I might draw the attention of the House, this subject is allotted to the Defence Ministry. We are only passing on some information known to us. I would request your intervention, Sir, to see that this matter should be asked of the Defence Ministry.

Shri M. R. Krishna: But you are allowing the import?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We are allowing the import at their instance.

Shri Tangamani: We were told, Sir, that the shot-gun cartridges are not being manufactured in the country. My information is that it is being manufactured in the ammunition factory at Kirkee. I would like to know what is its capacity etc.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this matter to be pursued any further. I would only request hon. Ministers to write to me when a particular matter referred to in a question is not within their competence so that I may send it on to the other hon. Min-

ister concerned. There are usually three copies made of a question. As soon as a question is received, one copy in the usual course is kept in the Secretariat and one copy is immediately sent to the Minister concerned. It is open to the Minister to say then that it does not pertain to him. If he keeps quiet then and on the floor of the House when supplementaries are put he says that it does not relate to his Ministry, what is the object of our sending the question to him?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The question of manufacture is different from the question of import.

Shri K. C. Reddy: May I submit, Sir, that the question is quite specific? They are asking us for information on certain specific points. So long as we have information on those specific points we accept the question and answer it.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, when the other supplementaries were put, the hon. Minister could have said that they do not arise out of this question.

Shri M. R. Krishna: The Defence Ministry is not concerned with the sale or supply of ammunition for sports rifles.

Shri Tyagi: Before sanctioning the import of this ammunition, did this Ministry consult the Defence Ministry to find out whether they are in a position to manufacture this article or not and, if so, what was their answer?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I submit that is not a question which has been given notice of. If such a question had been given notice of, then certainly we would have transferred it to the Defence Ministry.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Even then, this is an important supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this question. This relates only to the method of distribution and nothing more. For further information, the hon. Member could have tabled a question as to why it is imported and why it is not locally made.

Shri Tyagi: Part (a) of the question reads:

"whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation has secured licence for import of cartridges from Poland;"

Securing a licence is the job of this Ministry. Therefore, the question arises as to whether before sanctioning these licences they consulted the other Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member catches one finger and says "this is a whole man". He must read in what context the question was put. Clause (a) deals with the general question. For example, clause (b), says "If so, what is the method of distribution;". All other questions relate to distribution. Now, what does he want?

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether this import was necessitated because the supply...

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this question, as this does not arise out of the main question, as I stated repeatedly. Shri Tyagi raised the same point. This relates only to the question of distribution and not to imports.

Prices of Staple Fibre Yarn

*1227. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that led to the abnormal rise and fall in the prices of staple fibre yarn during the first half of August 1961; and

(b) whether the mills are not specially required to supply yarn of this character at the prescribed prices?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

There was some rise in the prices of staple fibre yarn during the end of July, 1961 and early in August. But

they fell subsequently. The rise is attributable to speculative purchases of yarn and the fall is mainly because there was lack of inquiries for the types of yarn which had been purchased.

There is no statutory price control on the staple fibre yarn. The Indian Cotton Mills Federation had, however, fixed some fair prices for all the counts of yarn and all the textile mills have been asked to conform to these prices. A number of mills have already advised that they have given effect to this schedule of prices.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know whether the production of staple fibre yarn in the country is quite sufficient to meet the demand?

Shri Kanungo: No, the demand far outstrips the supply.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the method of distribution?

Shri Kanungo: At present the price is controlled at the manufacturing end and there is supervision by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation over the distribution to the ultimate consumers.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the statement says that the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has fixed certain fair price and has asked the mills to conform to this fair price, may I know whether Government now propose to fix any fair price by themselves?

Shri Kanungo: No. As a result of the voluntary arrangement, prices have come down from the level to which they shot up in May. If the present trend continues and the present level of prices continues, there is nothing unfair about it and we expect that in the near future the capacity will be increased.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know the number of mills that have conformed to the fair prices that have been fixed by the Indian Cotton Mills Federation? Are there any mills which have refused to conform to that?