

SHRI B. V. NAIK: The other day the hon'ble Minister for Industry had the opportunity of addressing the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry where he stated that in these cases where there is delay in the implementation of a licence, the same will be cancelled or rejected. May I know whether a time-limit is going to be included in the Letter of Intent or the Licence that in case it is not implemented within a specific period and the date to be noted therein the licence will automatically get cancelled?

MR. SPEAKER: This was about Gujarat, not a general question.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: It is pertaining to licences.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: The hon Minister is willing to answer. I think it would be very unfair to shut it out. It is a policy statement he has made.

MR. SPEAKER: You said it would be about Gujarat, and asked a general question.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Let it be confined to Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

Trade Marks of Coca Cola Export Corporation

*677. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:**

DR. RANEN SEN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken by Government not to continue the trade marks of Coca Cola Export Corporation beyond 31st December, 1978; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have communicated the same to the Coca Cola Export Corporation of U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF SEATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The applications made by the Coca Cola Export Corporation for permission to use the trade marks are under consideration of the Government.

(b) The question does not arise.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: This is a very tiresome subject. We were given to understand a few months earlier that 31 December, 1978 would be the target date. Here is a 100 per cent foreign company, no question of dilution of equity to 40 per cent. It does not export very much these days. The Minister said the other day that its exports are falling. So no question of 100 per cent export. Why this mollycoddling of this organisation for ever and ever? What can be the conceivable reason for treating this kind of company with the indulgence which is being shown by Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): There is no question of any indulgence at all. Their application under FERA has been received; it is under consideration. But the whole problem is this that as long as we have decided not to ask them to quit completely, if they are willing to subject themselves to any regulations we might impose on them, they will still have a chance to be considered, provided it is in the interest of the country and the export performance is there. But it is true that the exports made are falling and this will also be taken into consideration and a decision arrived at quickly.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: In view of the statement before the House by the Finance Minister himself that the sooner we get rid of the Coca Cola Corporation, the better for this country, in view of so many other statements made by Ministers repeatedly, may I know how long, in the name of implementing FERA, a legislation nearly four years old, are we going

to continue to indulge this kind of company and not resuscitate our own India, concerns largely operating on a small scale basis, from which in the pre-Coca Cola days we used to get the type of cold drinks we required? It is not that Coca Cola is giving us something so essential that we are treating them in this mollicoddling fashion. How long do we have to wait for the resuscitation of our own cold drinks industry, particularly in this part of the country about which we all have personal experience for many years?

SHRI T. A. PAI: Not very long.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Is that all?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I can only say that the country is not interested in losing valuable foreign exchange for getting soft drinks introduced into the country. But the facts of life are there. For the last 15 years this industry has been there. Nearly 22 bottling plants have been set up employing about 20,000 workers and involving an investment of Rs. 6 crores in these bottles. But it is not for the sake of the bottlers and not even for the sake of the consumers that a decision will be taken, but because there have been various demands and pressures brought up as to what will happen to the bottles. Something will have to be done for that. What the Finance Minister said is right. We will certainly take into consideration what is in the best interest of the country.

DR. RANEN SEN: The hon Minister said that this is under consideration and soon a decision will be taken. For your information, I will quote what the Finance Minister said in reply to a question by Shri Shashi Bhushan on 2nd November 1974. Even then it was said by Shri C Subramaniam, who was probably the Finance Minister then, that the sooner we get rid of the Coca Cola Corporation, the better for the country, which was quoted by Shri H. N. Mukerjee here just now. In view of the fact that

this is pending for the last 1½ years and more, is the delay due to the fact that there is a strong lobby for Coca Cola working inside the Government so that Government refuse even to pressurise this company to dilute its capital under section 28(1) of FERA? If so, when is the government going to get rid of such a lobby inside its own administration?

SHRI T. A. PAI: There is no need to get rid of the lobby because it does not exist except in the imagination of the hon. Member. Nor is any one of us addicted to Coca-Cola and therefore to say that we are being pressurised to take a decision or delay the decision is not correct. We have been often told that if any harsh decision is taken 20,000 persons will be thrown out of employment unless a substitute is provided. We have asked the CFTRI to evolve a substitute and they have evolved it. But I do not know whether those who drink Coca-Cola would prefer it, nor should we care about it. We have a right to ask for the dilution of the capital. Their application under FERA has come up and a decision is being taken.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: May I know whether the government is contemplating to ask the Coca-Cola company in regard to the foreign exchange that they earn over here, to invest that over here instead of squandering away the foreign exchange or sending it to America?

SHRI T. A. PAI: They have accumulated assets to the extent of Rs. 6 crores; whether we should utilise it or not, in what industries and to what benefit to the country—we will have to think seriously about those questions.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: In reply to a question of Shri Shashi Bhushan in 1974, the hon. Minister has stated that no royalty was being charged from the bottlers by the Coca-Cola company of the United States which is the proprietor of this trade mark but the bottlers have to purchase the raw

material, namely Coca-Cola concentrate from the Coca-Cola export-corporation, a subsidiary of the Coca-Cola company of the United States which amounts to indirect payment of royalty. May I know whether the government is going to do costing of Coca-Cola concentrate and fix the selling price of it, if so, when? If not, why the government is not going to do that?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The question would arise only when it is decided to allow Coca-Cola to continue. If the decision is otherwise, costing has no relevance.

Loan to J & K State for Power Lines

*679. **SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jammu and Kashmir State has been provided a loan of Rs. 11.5 million for power lines; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI SIDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) A loan of Rs. 115.53 lakhs was sanctioned during 1975-76 to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the construction of the Pathankot-Udhampur-Chenani 220 KV inter-State transmission line.

(b) The loan is repayable in 25 (Twentyfive) equal annual instalments with interest at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस योजना के अन्तर्गत कौन कौन से प्रान्त भाते हैं और कर्ज की जो पूरी राशि दी गई है क्या उसका हिस्सा या उसका पूर्ण दायित्व जम्मू-कश्मीर का ही रहेगा या और प्रान्त

जो हिस्सेदार हैं वह भी इस में भाग बटावने ? और क्या इस योजना में हाथ लग चुका है ? अगर हाँ तो कब तक सम्पन्न करने का विचार है ?

श्री० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : योजना के अन्तर्गत काम हो रहा है और जम्मू की जाती है कि इस साल के अन्त तक काम पूरा हो जायगा। जहाँ तक इस योजना के अन्तर्गत अन्य राज्यों को ट्रांसमिशन लाइन बनाने के लिये कर्ज देने का प्रश्न है, अन्य राज्यों को भी कर्ज दिया जा रहा है।

अप्यक्ष महोदय : कौन कौन राज्य हैं ?

श्री० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : काफ़ी लम्बी सूची है, कई राज्यों को दिया जा रहा है।

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : जिस शर्त पर कर्ज इन्होंने जम्मू-कश्मीर को योजना के कार्यान्वयन के लिये दिया है क्या उसी शर्त पर और प्रान्त भी कर्ज लेकर ऐसी योजनाएँ करने यहां चलाने को प्रस्तुत हैं ? अगर हाँ, तो उन के नाम क्या हैं ?

श्री० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : इन्टर-स्टेट लाईन के लिये कर्ज दिया जाता है जैसा मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया गया है। और जिन राज्यों ने इस योजना के अन्तर्गत कर्ज लिया है वह हैं, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, असम, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू-कश्मीर, केरल, महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक, उत्तर प्रदेश, मणिपुर, नागालैंड, तमिलनाडु, वेस्ट बंगाल, और श्री० श्री० श्री० जो बिहार को कवर करती हैं।