

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 10, 1990/Chaitra 20, 1912
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Investigation into despatches made by manufacturers of Fire-works in Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu)

*391. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Controller of Explosives has carried out any investigations as to whether the manufacturers of fire-works and crackers in Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu) have made despatches of fire-works and crackers to licensees in Delhi much in excess of the limit prescribed in their licences during 1989;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check such violations; if any?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Upon investigation into the

matter by the Chief Controller of Explosives it was found that each despatch of fireworks and crackers from Sivakasi to licensees in Delhi has been in accordance with the licensed capacity of the consignee during the year 1989. However, the manufacturers can despatch a number of consignments (each within the licensed capacity) to a licensee over a period of time as per the additional conditions of the licence. No report has been received in the Deptt. of Explosives about storage of fireworks in excess of the licensed capacity in Delhi in the year 1989.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied. I wrote to the Minister of Industry that according to the information received by me, the manufacturers in Tamil Nadu made despatches in excess of the limit prescribed in their licences and thus there is possibility of evasion of income tax and sales tax. What is the license-wise and item-wise details of the manufacturers in Sivakasi.

[English]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manufacturers concerned.... (Interruptions)....

[Translation]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: The questions put in Hindi should be replied in Hindi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is left to the Minister to answer in English or in Hindi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: As the question related to Sivakasi and many hon. Members from there are interested in it, therefore, I was replying the question in English, there is no other reason.

The Controller of Explosives has examined all the manufacturers in Sivakasi and no violation of the conditions of the licences has been found. So far as question of consignees is concerned, according to licensed capacity they can send at least ten despatches every month and their consignees in Delhi are also examined. They were examined by the Delhi Police in 1989 and no violation was found.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Hon. Sir, Hon. Minister has stated that report has been received in the Department of Explosives about storage of fireworks in excess of the licensed capacity in Delhi in the year 1989. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether reply made is based on the investigation report or on the information received from them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the details about the investigations made.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: This is examined by the Controller of Explosives, Chandigarh every year. The investigation was not conducted by the Controller of Explosives in 1989 but it was conducted by the Delhi Administration and this reply was made on that basis.

[*English*]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, in Kerala, there were two major fire accidents connected with fireworks. A number of people had died. The Kerala Government requested the Chief Controller of Explosives, Government of India, to investigate into these accidents.

I would like to know whether you have received the request of the Kerala Government. If so, what action has been taken by you?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I do not have specific information about the accidents in Kerala. But I will tell you the number of accidents reported and investigated on all-India basis. Under the Explosives Act and the Petroleum Act, in 1989-90, 476 accidents were reported. Under the Explosives Act, and Petroleum in licensed premises about which the question is, 56 accidents were reported. But in 1989-90, most of these accidents were investigated by the State authorities and we do not have the report yet. (*Interruptions*)

DR. THAMBI DURAI: I want to know from the Minister, apart from Tamil Nadu, which are the places from where the licensees in Delhi dealing in fireworks and crackers get these items. Secondly, are they also getting in excess of the quantity for which you have given the licences to them?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Ninety per cent of fireworks are produced in Sivakasi. In Delhi, most of them are received directly from Sivakasi. In Rohtak, there are two magazines only, not the manufacturing capacities. Each of the magazines has a capacity of 35,000 Kgs. We really do not have the figures if they are getting from other sources also. As I said, 90 per cent is produced in Sivakasi only.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: What about the remaining 10 per cent?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: We have made investigation in respect of the consignees in Delhi. There are no violations, as I said earlier.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister through you, the number and names of consignees of explosives in Delhi and since when they are the consignees? Secondly, I want to know whether explosives are also supplied to the quarries and mines where the cooperative societies are working. If they have sent the despatches in excess, I want to know the procedure of granting licences to

the people working in the mines.

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: I think you want to know the number of fire-works factories in Delhi. I have the figures on all-India basis. I do not have the state-wise breakdown in number of fire-works factories. They are in different forms under which they are issued licences. On all-India basis, they are 580 and 585 in number in 1988-89 and 1989-90. The next part of the question is about quarries and mines.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: If you have got the information, please state the names of the consignees in Delhi, otherwise you can lay it on the table of the House later on.

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: At present, that breakdown is not available with me. We will supply that information to you later. I hope you want the number of consignees in Delhi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: My second question is that...

MR. SPEAKER: No, you cannot ask second question.

SHRI KALKA DAS: What is the use of asking question if reply to my question has not been received. Therefore, you may allow me to ask another question.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please take your seat.

SHRI KALKA DAS: I have asked question for the first time still I did not get the reply and you are not allowing me to ask a question. You may allow me to get the information..... (*Interruptions*).... I want to know the procedure for granting explosive licences to people who work in mines and use explo-

sives to break stones.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: There are a total of 47 licence-holders of fire works in Delhi. So far as the question of granting explosive licences for mines is concerned, there is a big difference between the licences for fire-works and licences for explosives. If you give notice of a separate question, that would be replied.

[*English*]

Recovery of overcharged amount from Drug Companies

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*392. SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI SURYA NARAYAN
SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to recover large sums of money due from drug companies as a result of overcharging of prices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Orders of 1979 and 1987;

(b) if so, the details of the amount due from these companies and names of companies involved; and

(c) the steps being taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The amounts due in pursuance of the orders of the Supreme Court/High Courts or even otherwise, under the operation of the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Orders 1979/1987, will be recovered.