

to me for purpose of elections. To the extent that it is now possible for me, I made some investigation into the matter of this ferro-chrome plant application made by this party. I understand a letter of intent was issued by the Commerce and Industry Ministry to the party sometime in October, 1956, that is, two months after I left office, and I believe the Minister who presided over the heavy industries section of the Commerce and Industry Ministry at that time was the late-lamented Pantji. Again, I understand, sometime in May, 1957, a letter approving the foreign collaboration was issued to this party; the Minister concerned at the time is my colleague, The Present Finance Minister. It appears that the final licence was issued in May, 1958, a time when I was not even a member of the Government.

I find nothing out of the way in the grant of the licence either by the Commerce and Industry Ministry or any of the people who succeeded me as Commerce and Industry Minister.

In regard to the collection of money for elections, it is true that I had some little part in collecting money for the 1957 elections; but I did not meet any businessman individually for this purpose and I do not think Shri Serajuddin was anywhere amongst the group of businessmen that I met. The businessmen were asked to send their contributions to the account of the party direct by cheque, for which they were told, they would get no benefits. The monies did not pass through me and I have no direct knowledge of individual payments in that connection. In regard to my own election in 1957, I had no necessity to approach anybody outside my own small circle of friends in Madras for help and assistance. It is perfectly obvious that if my name has been mentioned anywhere, I had no connection with the matter, because I had no contacts with Shri Serajuddin

and I was not in a position to do him any favour.

I do not remember any case concerning him having come to my notice during the time I was Finance Minister either. Obviously, further enquiries will be made by Government in this matter, but I felt I should make my position clear before Parliament; hence this statement. I think you for this courtesy.

12.23 hrs.

EXPORT (QUALITY CONTROL AND INSPECTION) BILL*

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the sound development of the export trade of India through quality control and inspection and for matters connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the sound development of the export trade of India through quality control and inspection and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I introduce the Bill.

12.24 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, for which five hours have been allotted. 35 minutes have been taken, and so four hours and 25 minutes remain. Shri Ranga.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that the

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