

LOK SABHA DEBATE

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 9, 1973/Vaisakha 19,
1895 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sale on Foreign Liquor in Delhi Shops without Licences

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*1021. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MAN-
DAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government
has been drawn to a news-items published
in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 10th April,
1973 under the caption "Shops selling
foreign liquor without licences"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government
thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
K. C. PANT): (a) Government have seen
the news-item in question.

(b) A statement regarding the sale of
foreign liquor or India-made foreign liquor
in Delhi raised in the news-item, is laid on
the Table of the House.

Statement

All the 28 shops selling foreign liquor or
India-made foreign liquor to the public
have been licensed upto the 30th June, 1973
and there are no unlicensed shops in Delhi.

During 1972-73 and for the period upto
30th June, 1973, the Delhi Administration
have been renewing the licences of these
shops for periods ranging from one month
to three months. According to the Delhi
Administration this had to be done because
the policy regarding licensing of the foreign
liquor and India-made foreign liquor shops
was under review.

Government have no reason whatsoever
to believe that the owners of liquor shops
in Delhi have been black-mailed or that
the Executive Councillors have made any

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private gain from the liquor merchants.
The allegation is uncalled for.

Government had decided in May, 1972 to
continue, by and large, the existing scheme
of prohibition in Delhi with certain modi-
fications in order to reduce the consump-
tion of noxious liquor and to mitigate the
evil effects of intoxication.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: In the state-
ment it is stated:

"Government have no reason whatso-
ever to believe that the owners of liquor
shops in Delhi have been blackmailed or
that the Executive Councillors have made
any private gain from the liquor mer-
chants".

These liquor licences are usually issued
for a year or for a few years. Why is it
that in Delhi these have been issued for
one month or three months at a time and
not more than that? Do they want to
extract money from the liquor shop owners?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The House will re-
call that in January, 1972 there were some
deaths due to spurious liquor consumption.
Thereafter Baweja Commission was appoint-
ed, which went into the reasons for tragedy
and they made some recommendations. One
of the recommendations they made was that
such of the licences which had already been
issued should be scrutinised carefully and
should not be granted in a routine manner
as had been done before. This scrutiny was
undertaken and the Delhi Administration
informed us that this scrutiny has been
completed only recently. Pending the finali-
sation of the scrutiny they had been ex-
tending the licences periodically and not for
the whole year as was the normal practice.
The policy question whether more shops
should be opened or the number should be
confined to the present number which is
28 is under consideration.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the hon.
Minister tell us as to whether he is aware
of the fact that foreign liquors are being
sold freely in Delhi which are mostly sumg-
gled at a price which is far above the Bom-
bay smuggled liquor price? If so, what are
the reasons thereof?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I am not aware of
this but I acknowledge the credentials of my
hon. friend for giving me accurate informa-
tion in this regard.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only some shops are selling foreign liquors without licences but there are also certain clandestine parallel organisations working to adulterate the foreign liquors resulting in the damage of the health of the people. I would like to know whether any such instances have come to the notice of the government. If so, what is the action taken by the government?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, I have said in my statement that the shops are not functioning without licences. If he can give me the information that he has with regard to the organisations adulterating foreign liquors I would be glad to take it up.

डा० कैलास : क्या यह सत्य है कि दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन खुद शराब की दुकानें चलायेगी और किसी भी प्राईवेट पार्टी को लाइसेंस नहीं दिया जायेगा; यदि हां, तो दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन कब तक शराब की सब दुकानें अपने हाथ में ले लेगी ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : जहां तक कन्ट्री लिकर शाप्स का सम्बन्ध है, वह तो दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन चलाती है और इसी के सम्बन्ध में पिछले वर्ष सदन में चर्चा हुई थी। लेकिन विदेशी शराब या इंडियन मेड फ़ारेन लिकर की दुकानें तो प्राईवेट पार्टियां चलाती हैं और उन का लाइसेंस दिये जाते हैं।

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The hon. Minister told us that the licences issued in Delhi are of short duration. Even though it may cause some harassment to the licence holders will the hon. Minister tell us whether this policy of issuing licences for short-duration will be continued in Delhi?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already replied to it earlier.

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा : दिल्ली में लाइसेंस के बिना शराब की बिक्री बढ़ रही है और कई राज्यों में लाइसेंस के जरिये से शराब की बिक्री बढ़ रही है। क्या यह सब इस बात का खोलक है कि सरकार की मद्य-निषेध की नीति में परिवर्तन हुआ है और उस ने इस सम्बन्ध में ढील दी है, जिसके कारण शराब की बिक्री बढ़ रही है ?

अध्यक्ष श्रीवास्तव : यह सवाल इस से नहीं पैदा होता है। माननीय सदस्य इस के लिये भ्रमल से सवाल पूछें।

Modernisation Plans for Cotton Mills run by National Textile Corporation

*1024. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial outlay on the modernisation plans of cotton mills run by the National Textile Corporation;

(b) the estimated impact of the modernisation plans on the production and profitability of such mills; and

(c) the amount at present invested by Government on the running of such mills, and further financial requirements of such units and Governments allocation in this respect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The financial outlay in cash on modernisation plans of the 103 textile mills, the management of which has been taken over by the Central Government is estimated at Rs. 41.82 crores.

(b) After modernisation, the production of these mills is likely to increase but is not possible to quantify this at this stage.

(c) The Central Government and the National Textile Corporation have advanced, till the 31st March, 1973, loans amounting to Rs. 20.53 crores for running these mills. Their future requirements cannot be stated precisely at this stage. It has, however, been estimated that the National Textile Corporation's share towards further requirements of these mills might work out to about Rs. 22 crores.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: From the statement it appears that Government are taking measures to modernise the mills. In view of this, may I know whether Government have drawn up any phased programme for the modernisation, and if so, whether this modernisation is going to lead to more production? Secondly, is it a fact that after the take-over of the sick mills, most of the mills have started making profit? If so, would Government take stringent measures to see that the mills do not become sick in future?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Government have a phased programme for running these sick mills and making them into viable units. In the case of 47 mills taken over under the Industries Development and Regulation Act, in which the