

75 monopoly houses consist of 1,536 companies spread over five or six charges. I am trying to explain this. There is nothing to hide about. And there is no question of my getting provoked. These 1,536 companies are spread over the various Commissioners of Income-tax. It is physically impossible in the course of one question to find out the details of these 1,536 companies. We try to check up when the question comes up regarding large arrears exceeding more than a lakh of rupees. As far as arrears less than one lakh of rupees which have been written off are concerned in the last three or four years these arrears of the monopoly houses have not been written off. We shall have to check up the figures as far as your question is concerned because there is a large area which has got to be covered.

May I further explain? There are specific criteria laid down according to which the arrears are written off. Firstly the assesses who have left behind no assets after their death and whose companies have gone into liquidation their cases have to be taken up. Demand is first made but much later the assessment is rectified.

MR SPEAKER: So far as these categories are concerned a number of times it has been told that the information is being collected. Perhaps the reason is that there are a wide varieties of companies more than 1,000 or so—and so you have to collect the information. You say so instead of getting yourselves involved into so many other things.

SHRI BHAGWAI JHA AZAD: That is not tenable. The Charges are being manned by very senior officers. A large number of returnees are there. How can the Government come forward and say that they have no information about the monopoly houses? Why is the hon. Minister not getting the information?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I did not say that I had no information. Whatever

information I had I have given (Interruptions)

SHRI N. SREELKANTAN NAIR: As I understand it, income tax arrears against each firm are being added up every year. If so, is it so difficult for the minister to collect the figures of arrears against monopoly houses for the last three years, excluding this year and last year?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: As far as arrears are concerned we have given the facts. This question relates to write-off of outstanding arrears against certain monopoly houses.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The title of the question says 'Arrears of income tax against monopoly houses'.

MR SPEAKER: Don't go by the title. Read the whole question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: On the basis of the hon. Minister's approach of abundant caution do we take it for granted that there is not even a single case of a monopoly house in which arrears of less than Rs. 1 lakh are not written off?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I have given the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

Export of Prawn to USA by M/s Union Carbide Limited

*457 SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether some consignments of prawns exported by M/s Union Carbide Limited in 1972 to USA were found to be under-invoiced in violation of the floor price fixed by Government as also in comparison with usual quotations of Indian prawns in New York and San Francisco Sport market, and

(b) if so the facts of the case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A C GEORGE) (a) and (b). No, Sir There is no evidence to suggest that M/s Union Carbide Limited had under invoiced some consignments in 1972 while exporting prawns to USA

SHRI R N BARMAN Will the minister kindly tell us the price of prawn as fixed by the Government and also the price at which Union Carbide exported prawns to USA in 1972?

SHRI A C GEORGE There is no floor price fixed for these prawns for export We can be guided only by the market information There is a green sheet published by the US Government Department of Fisheries and we make some comparison with that also to find out if there is some lacuna

SHRI R N BARMAN What is the actual price?

SHRI A C GEORGE Though it is known as one item under a general category there are innumerable kinds and varieties it may be difficult to say what exactly is the price

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA In view of the fact that this prawn export business is of recent growth and is being mostly promoted by medium and small scale entrepreneurs, may I know why M/s Union Carbide Limited a foreign concern which has been mainly engaged in this country in the manufacture of torches and batteries has been allowed to go into this business of exporting prawns?

SHRI A C GEORGE We are aware that many of the big houses are going in the fishing business (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA In Kerala those people who are exporting prawns were complaining why Union Carbide was allowed to come into this business

SHRI A C GEORGE There are no laws at present which prevent them from going into this priority business Unless they commit a specific economic offence, we are quite helpless to take any action against them

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी मछली उद्योग हिन्दुस्तान का जो, इमका निर्यात बहुत बढ़ रहा है। क्या स्थानीय लोग आपको निर्यात करने के लिए नहीं मिल रहे हैं जो आप इस उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विदेशी कम्पनियों को आगे ला रहे हैं ?

SHRI A C GEORGE As the hon Member pointed out earlier, this is an industry which has been built up by the efforts of small and medium entrepreneurs (*Interruption*) We do not want to finish them off In fact, we are taking certain policy measures, like Marine Export Development Authority, to encourage more and more of small and medium type of entrepreneurs and at the same time discourage big sharks coming into it Right now unless they commit a specific economic offence, we are helpless to take any action against them

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI I wanted to know whether they are relegated to the background You are giving prominence to big business I want a categorical reply to my question

मैंने यह जानना चाहा था कि क्या स्थानीय लोग आपको निर्यात करने के लिए नहीं मिल पा रहे हैं जो आप इस उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विदेशी कम्पनियों को आगे ला रहे हैं ?

SHRI A C GEORGE There is no particular restriction put on the fishing industry Until that time, naturally so many people will come But it is our policy to restrain as much as possible through different procedural

matters, so that we can encourage small entrepreneurs.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: In view of the fact that large profits are being earned by export of prawns and since the Minister said that for the time being, the floor prices of prawns are not fixed and since it concerns about 4.3 million fishermen in the country, will the Government come forward to fix the floor price for prawns which will be remunerative to the fishermen in the country?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: We will take the suggestion into consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indian Banks in Singapore

*442. **SHRI H. M. PATEL** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to a report in the *Statesman* of 1st February, 1973, stating that Indian Banks in Singapore are beginning to feel the impact of tough competition from major international institutions and appear destined to further diminution of their steadily declining clientele, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). Government have seen the report in the *Statesman* of 1st February, 1973 under the Caption 'Problems of Indian Banks in Singapore'. It is reported by the Indian Banks having branches in Singapore that while competition in the banking field in Singapore is getting keener, they do not share the view that their clientele has been steadily declining or destined to further diminution. In the awareness of the keen competition, the banks are continually exploring new avenues of profitable business.

Import of Diesel Sets

*443. **SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit the import of Diesel Sets during the current year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) and (b). Government have under consideration a proposal to import the minimum required number of Diesel Generating sets of sizes not indigenously available to meet the operational requirements of Industrial units during the period of power shortage this year

Misuse of Import Licences by M/s. Asian Cables

*444. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK**
SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the nature of action taken by Government against M/s. Asian Cables with regard to the charges of misuse of import licence by the firm in the light of C.B.I. report?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): CBI's report revealed that M/s. Asian Cables were alleged to have misused Copper, Aluminum and Low Density Polyethylene Moulding Powder imported by them as actual users. On the basis of their findings, CBI sent 3 separate complaints to the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports for signature with a view to filing them in a Court of Law.

The complaint in respect of misuse of copper has already been signed and filed in a Court of Law. Similarly,