

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday February 26, 1975/Phalgun
7, 1891 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI ISMAIL HOSSAIN KHAN
(Bameta-Assam)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR SPEAKER. Now, we take up
the questions

Shri M K Krishnan—absent

Shri Varkey George—also not
present.

Shri Vasant Sathe

Proposal made by Electronics Trade and Technology Corporation for Import of Picture Tubes

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*123. SHRI VASANT SATHE:

SHRI DHAMANKAR:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electronics Trade
and Technology Corporation has put
forth a proposal for import of 40,000
picture tubes; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the
matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI
VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a)
and (b). Government have decided

to import 40,000 TV picture tubes
through the Electronics Trade and
Technology Development Corpora-
tion, which is a public sector under-
taking under the Department of
Electronics. The import of the picture
tubes is now being effected.

SHRI VASANT SATHE The first
thing I would like to know from the
hon Minister is whether it is a fact
that since 1971 the price of picture
tubes produced indigenously by Bharat
Electronics has risen from Rs 220
to Rs 565 and what plan do the Go-
vernment have to make the electro-
nic industry self-sufficient particular-
ly in the field of television which is
a growing sector in the light of our
satellite TV programme where even
rural areas would be served by tele-
vision. What plan do the Government
have to make the country self-suffi-
cient in the field of television sets,
particularly, in the manufacture of
picture tubes which are to-day in
shortage?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
As far as the prices of TV tubes pro-
duced by BEL are concerned, apart
from the economic compulsions that
have arisen recently, we thought that
there should be a price parity between
the tube produced indigenously and
the one imported from abroad.
Therefore some sort of pool price
system has been developed which has
been found acceptable so far as the
manufacturing economy is concerned.
We are almost self-sufficient in tube
manufacture in the country. The
major question is regarding picture
tubes which are being manufactured
in Bharat Electronics. But four other
parties have been given the industrial
licence to manufacture these picture

tubes and two or three of them have made some substantial progress. Regarding manufacture of glass tubes, this constitutes the major part of the picture tubes and now this technology is also being developed and we are proceeding in this direction and we hope that very soon we shall be able to establish this technology and this production of glass tubes also so that we will be fully self-sufficient with regard to the requirement of the TV sets in the country.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In view of our policy to encourage the small scale sector, particularly in the field of electronics and entertainment industry, it was thought desirable that all encouragement should be given to small scale units so that they may come and in fact they have come up and we know that there is sufficient talent in the country to manufacture TV sets and other electronic equipments. But it is seen that because of our policy the small-scale sector does not get adequate supply of raw materials or components even manufactured by Bharat Electronics. I want to know whether this is a fact. I want to know whether this has been brought to the notice of the Government. If so, what steps are taken and what measures are taken to remedy this default?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Hon. Member has rightly said that we have emphasised that the TV manufacture should be concentrated and should be encouraged in the small-scale and medium sector and it has been done in most of the cases. His complaint is regarding the distribution of scarce raw materials with regard to imported or indigenously manufactured picture tubes and that some fairness has now been given to smaller units. Here the main emphasis has been with regard to the availability and the production of these TV sets. And therefore instead of going by the size of the enterprise we went by the production done. That is to say, if the production was 50 per cent and there was more capacity than we

allotted them larger number of picture tubes and if production was less than 50 per cent we allotted them less. That was what was done and the main emphasis and the main hypothesis behind this thing was that when the picture tubes are allotted, they should be properly utilised and they should also reach the consumers marked as quickly as possible. And therefore in this particular distribution I may say, the bias is not against the small manufacturer. The emphasis was that TV sets should be manufactured quickly and they should reach the consumer as quickly as possible.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: My question has not been answered. I had said that specific instances have been brought to the Government's notice. Although production was upto capacity, they were not supplied. If you want I can name them, but I don't want to do that. When such instances are brought to your notice, what steps have been taken?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: As I said our policy is not to let these medium and small-scale sector suffer. I have already told you that this is our basic policy.

We have got to watch that. Secondly, in case any lapse has occurred anywhere, I must certainly request the hon. Member to let us have those facts so that we can correct them.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: Sir, the Government has allowed the mushroom growth of the T.V. and electronics manufacture in the last so many years without any consideration for quality. That has created the shortage in the picture tubes. Picture tube was one of the monopolies of the B.E.L. and they made a huge profit. They imported at Rs. 335/- and sell them at Rs. 585/-. And Government is forced to import about 40,000 picture tubes. Now, I would like to know from Government what

steps are taken to reduce the dependence of the entertainment electronics of imported material and equipment. Secondly, will Government consider the claim of small-scale industries who have adequate expertise? Then, in that case, the manufacture of picture tubes should be given to small-scale industries. For lack of finance, they are not in a position to produce picture tubes. Will these marketing facilities of Reserve Bank be available to the small-scale industries?

SHRI VIDYA CHANAN SHUKLA:

As we have indicated, our policy is that depending upon the production performance of the particular enterprises, we allocated these picture tubes which were either manufactured in India or imported. The idea was precisely what the hon. Member mentioned just now, namely, that the picture tubes that go to the enterprise are not now utilised for producing the T.V. In that case, the allocation of T.V. tubes will remain utilised. So, depending upon the production programme, and performance we allow these picture tubes. By and large, they have been properly utilised. If there are any difficulties, I would like to know the instances from the hon. Member.

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या सरकार का यह पानिमी डिमिजिन है कि पिक्चर ट्यूब की पैदावार केवल सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में की जाये। यदि ऐसा नहीं है, तो इस की पैदावार को बढ़ाने के लिए क्या किया जा रहा है ? क्या सरकार को यह भी जानकारी मिली है कि कुछ बड़ी कम्पनियों ने पिक्चर ट्यूब को खरीद कर उन को ब्लैक में बेचने का काम चलाया है ?

श्री बिद्या चरन शुकल : हालांकि पिक्चर ट्यूब को अधिकतर सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में बनाया जायेगा, हम ने अभी चार संस्थाओं को भी पिक्चर ट्यूब का निर्माण

करने का कार्य दिया है। जैसा कि मैंने पहले एक उत्तर में कहा है, उन में से दो कम्पनियों ने विशेषकर बहुत अच्छी उन्नति की है, और जल्दी ही उन का उत्पादन बाजार में आ जायेगा। जहाँ तक काना बाजारी करने का सवाल है, ऐसी कोई विशेष और पक्की शिकायत हमारे सामने नहीं आई है। यदि माननीय सदस्य के पास कोई इस तरह की सूचना हो, तो वह हमें दे दे। हम उस की पूरी तरह से जाच-पड़ताल कर लेंगे।

MR. SPEAKER: Well, this question can be linked with Q. No. 140. The Member putting 140 is present. He may also put his question

I find that Mr. Mudhukar is not here Mr Lakkappa

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the technology on electronics is a developing one. But, still, we are depending upon the imported picture tubes. I would, therefore, like to know, as Mr. Dhamankar put a specific question, the reason why Government is going in for the import. Is it because of the reason that the B.E.L. which is manufacturing them is not maintaining the standards and the quality of the same? As a consequence of that, the T.V. programme that has been extended to various States in our country suffers. To meet this situation, whether Government would see that quality as also quantity is maintained to meet this situation as far as expansion of the T.V. manufacture is concerned.

SHRI VIDYA CHANAN SHUKLA: The assumption of the hon. Member is not correct that because of technological incompetence or otherwise the manufacture of picture tubes has gone down. The picture tubes manufactured by Bharat Electronics are as good, if not better than, the imported ones. If the production has gone down it was mostly because of the power-cut imposed by Karnataka Government and some other shortages of raw-materials.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: I want to know what steps the Government is taking particularly with regard to the acute shortage of picture tubes. I gather from the news reports that the West Bengal Government is trying to put up a T.V. tube factory with the collaboration of Bharat Electronics. Also what steps the Government of India is taking to manufacture the glass shells for the picture tubes. I understand even Bharat Electronics import these glass shells.

SHRI VIDYA CHANAN SHUKLA: I have already answered these points. Because of the shortage of picture tubes produced in the country we have allowed some import of picture tubes. This will be sufficient to meet the present demand. As regards glass shells required for the manufacture of picture tubes, this matter is under our active consideration and we have taken steps to encourage the production of glass shells and we hope to take a decision in this regard very soon. As soon as this is done self-sufficiency in this field would have been achieved.

Ordinance on Nationalisation of Foreign Owned Plantations in Kerala

*124. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision about the granting of permission to promulgate the ordinance to nationalise the foreign owned plantations in Kerala, which was proposed by the Kerala Government and pending the decision of the Centre for many years; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to take a decision on this during the present term of the present Kerala Government and Assembly by October this year?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) A high-powered group had been set up to examine the implications of the proposal of the State Government. The group has submitted its report to the Government on 3rd February, 1975. A decision in the matter will be taken in the light of the recommendations of the group as early as possible.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Minister has given a very disappointing answer. This question has been raised for more than 10 times during the past four years in this House. We also had a half-an-hour discussion on this. Every time the Government repeated a parrot like monotony the same answer. Let us know now whether it is a fact that the Government at all intends to give permission to the Kerala Government for nationalisation of the plantations. More than four years have been taken for the study team to make up their mind. After six months the term of the Kerala Government is coming to an end. Whether the Government would take a decision before that or whether the Government will carry on with this indecision.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It is true that it has taken some time but it will also have to be considered that this is an important question not only affecting Kerala but also plantations in other areas of the country. This being an important matter about ten to twelve Ministries are involved in this. It is also not free from doubt whether there is legal competence as well. Therefore, Sir, considering all this a high-power group has been set-up. They have submitted the recommendations only a few days ago. They will be examined by the Ministry of Finance and later in consultation with other Ministries concerned Government will take a decision in due course.