

SHRI DHAMANKAR: May I know from the hon. Minister whether, when you import wheat from the U.S.S.R., Government will issue instructions to our Purchase Mission to see that they are careful that the wheat does not contain any foreign matter.

MR. SPEAKER: You can otherwise suggest this in the budget discussion. Here the question is about the import.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: Last time it happened.

Export of Shrimps and Lobsters at prices below international price

*68. **SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Carbide has been exporting shrimps and lobsters from India on prices much below the ruling international prices; and

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing export at low prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). It has been reported that, in the case of export of shrimps to Japan by M/s. Union Carbide India Ltd. through Visakhapatnam Customs House the export price for certain grades of shrimps was suspected to be lower than the prices prevailing at Bombay. Pending investigations in this case, the shipment was permitted on execution of a bond. The matter is under investigation. No case of under-invoicing of export of lobsters by the firm has been reported by the Customs Houses.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: There is a difference between the local market price and the price at which it was to be exported. But, the hon. Minister did not tell us as to what is the difference between the international market price and at the price at which it was to be exported?

My second supplementary is : How many of the local people are engaged in fishing trade?

MR. SPEAKER: The question relates to export of shrimps and lobsters from India on prices much below the ruling international prices and the reasons for allowing export at low prices. Your question is: how many of the local people are engaged in fish trade.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Of course, I have addressed you a letter about my difficulty. My colleague, Shri K. R. Ganesh is here. This question, according to my understanding, should have been addressed to the Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Commerce. But, the only limited question which the hon. Member has put in is this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): As regards the shipments which have been made from the Visakhapatnam port, the difference in prices has been between 2 cents and 88 cents per kg.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: There is a world of difference between these two prices.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him ask his question. The hon. Minister has given the information.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: It is a very uncertain information. One can understand a difference of 2 cents per kg. but one does not understand a difference ranging between 2 cents and 88 cents per kg.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very clear. sometimes, it is 2 cents. and sometimes it is 88 cents.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Will the hon. Minister tell us who the owners of the Union Carbide are and for how long this company has been engaged in this trade?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I do not have that particular information immediately with me. The fact is that under-invoicing of the exports of shrimps from Visakhapatnam port by Union Carbides has been detected. We have indicated the range of prices which has been detected. The matter is under investigation. Even the DIR has been asked to look into it, and he has been looking into it.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : As the hon. Minister Mr. Shinde has indicated, this question relates to the Ministry of Finance as well as the Ministry of Commerce. But I think that somebody in the Government benches would be able to answer this question. The Union Carbides has become interested in the export of shrimps now, and you would be surprised to know that the India Tobacco Co. which is a subsidiary of the Imperial Tobacco Co. and has near-monopoly business in tobacco has also entered into this business and is under-invoicing. Both these are foreign firms or foreign subsidiaries and already one case is under investigation and it has been detected. Is there any conspiracy on the part of these foreign monopolies to even capture our lucrative export trade particularly in the matter of shrimps? This business has grown up during the last ten years. It is a foreign exchange earner and now these people are entering the market to oust our people who are in this exporting business. Something should be done about it. What is the policy in this regard? Will anybody from the Government Benches be able to answer this?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : It would not be correct to draw a general inference that these foreign monopoly concerns are having a predominant position in the case of shrimps. In fact, if I may make a general observation . . .

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : It is not a general observation. I again assert that the Union Carbides and the Indian Tobacco Co. are in this business, and that creates some suspicion. How did they enter

this business? After all, the Union Carbides manufactures batteries and other things . . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : More than 85 per cent of the exports is done by Indian concerns and Indian business-houses and there is no question of foreign companies dominating in this field. Now, the hon. Member has raised a general policy issue whether some of these foreign concerns which are already operating in India should be allowed to operate in this area. Since some of these points are coming up, Government would like to review the position from time to time and Government would take a decision in the light of our national interest.

SHRI K. GOPAL : In view of the fact that some of the foreign companies which have been allowed to diversify their exports to include shrimps and lobsters are indulging and some are likely to indulge in malpractices with regard to invoicing, will Government think of taking over the export of shrimps and lobsters through their own agencies?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Specific action can be taken if any malpractices are indulged in by anybody. But there is no proposal before Government to take over shrimps export

श्री मधु लिखते अगर मंत्री जी को पता नहीं है तो मैं उन्हें बतवाना चाहता हूँ कि मैनियन कार्बाइड दुनिया की बहुत प्रसिद्ध कम्पनी है। क्या सरकार की यह नीति है कि अम्य, सीस्टर, मछली आदि के निर्यात में अब विदेशी कम्पनियों को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाएगा? क्या इन कम्पनियों के द्वारा जो निर्यात किया जाता है, उस के उपर इन को इन्वेन्टिव लाइसेंस भी दिये जाते हैं—घायात के, इम्पोर्ट के लिये? क्या मंत्री महोदय इन बातों के बारे में खुलासा करेंगे?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : There is no question of the Government of India having a policy to encourage foreign concerns in the field of fisheries because our

interest is to encourage Indian parties. That is our general approach. But these companies have been here for a long time; for instance, Union Carbide has been operating in this country for the last 40 years.

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या 40 साल से इस ट्रेड में है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : They have entered the shrimps trade only recently. Fishing is not a licensed industry at the moment. But as I said, if something happens against our national interest, the Government of India would take action.

श्री मधु लिमये : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया। क्या इस निर्यात के लिये इन को इम्पोर्ट का इन्सेन्टिव लाइसेंस दिया जाता है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Whatever general incentives are there for exports are available to all exporters. They give foreign exchange to our country.

श्री मधु लिमये : आप सीधा जवाब क्यों नहीं देते हैं। थ्रिम्प, लोस्टर आदि का जो निर्यात होता है, क्या उस पर इन को इम्पोर्ट का इन्सेन्टिव लाइसेंस दिया जाता है। एग्जट-इन्वाइसिंग भी करते हैं इम्पोर्ट लाइसेंस भी मिलता है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I would humbly request the hon. Member to put this question to the Ministry of Commerce.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब था गया है। आप इनको निर्देश दीजिये—जब इन्होंने मल प्रश्न मान लिया है तो फिर मन्त्रीमन्दीज भी पूछे जायेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बजाय इस के कि कोई फनसटन जवाब दिया जाये, कामसे मिनिस्ट्री से पूछ लिया जाये।

SHRI SHAMNANDAN MISHRA : May I seek a clarification through a question.

श्री मधु लिमये : आप व्यापार मंत्री से जवाब बिलवाइये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिश्रा जी, आप का सला बँटा हुआ है, कुछ दिन आराम कर लिये।

श्री शम्भुनन्दन मिश्र : जी हाँ, चुनाव की वजह से बँठ गया है।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर व्यापार मंत्री से दिलवाइये।

MR. SPEAKER : You table a question to the Commerce Minister. I will allow it.

SHRI SHAMNANDAN MISHRA : The hon. Minister seemed to say that no export licence is required for exporting fish. That is so, it is strange phenomenon. My precise question is: is no export licence required for exporting fish ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I am sorry. I can naturally appreciate the fact that the hon. member has just returned from the election campaign and he is exhausted. But I said no licence is required for fishing, not for export.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Fishing is not involved in this. Export of fish is involved. This is something which we cannot take. The question is whether any export licence is required. Is no criterion fixed for giving export licence to any company which has no expertise, no experience in the field of exporting fish ? Is that not very strange ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : All questions pertaining to exports will have to be put to the Ministry of Commerce.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Review of procurement and distribution of foodgrains

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69. **SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY :**
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the food procurement and distribution measures in the context of the paradoxical 'scarcity' in a year of 'plenty'; and