

(c) Some of the reasons for the Company suffering losses during the last three years are :

- (i) Reduction in value of orders during this period.
 - (ii) Due to recession the Company was obliged to accept uneconomic prices to avoid retrenchment ;
 - (iii) Inadequate availability of raw materials ;
 - (iv) Increased Labour and Staff costs due to Engineering Wage Board Award ;
 - (v) Loss of production due to the difficult law and order situation ;
- (d) Yes, Sir. A complaint has recently been received.

(e) The complaint is being enquired into.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In view of the fact that two of the companies making up this concern—Braithwaite and Jessop—are practically being run by the Government of India—the management of one has been taken over the other day and that of Jessop was taken over a long time ago—and these two companies together are the major shareholders of BBJ, since the Government has such a direct stake in this concern, how is it that they have only thought about looking into the matter after receiving a complaint recently, as he said? Am I to take it that prior to receiving the complaint, the Government did not consider it necessary on its own to look into the matter ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUHDURY : It is true that the three companies Braithwaite, Burn and Jessop—hold shares in the ratio 40 : 30 : 30. Jessop is a majority company of the Government. The management of Braithwaite has been taken over by the Government under section 18A of the Industrial Development Act very recently. Consequently Government has acquired a controlling interest in the affairs of this company only with regard to its management, but not with regard to its shares. After we got into this, suddenly we knew about these difficulties and we have been trying to sort them out. But the recent complaint is with regard to some other matters, namely, top-heavy expenditure in the company, inefficient administration and lack of coordination. These

are the matters referred to in the complaint which we received sometime in June. Later on, the same complaint was forwarded to us by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, M. P., on 12th June, 1971. We are looking into these specific complaints after they were received. But that does not mean that we have not been looking into the affairs of the company earlier.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : May I know who was the original complainant and who has been entrusted with the job of conducting the enquiry? What steps will be taken to see that this firm will not close down suddenly as is happening in many cases in West Bengal ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUHDURY : The original complaints was received from the BBJ staff union. We have now called for a report about these specific allegations. As soon as we receive them, we will certainly enquire into them if there is a *prima facie* case. We will see that the company is not closed. But as I said, there are certain difficulties.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You said they have orders worth Rs. 6 crores.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUHDURY : Yes, but for a company of this nature, Rs. 6 crores is not a very good order position. But the worst difficulties are raw material shortage, particularly steel and also labour disputes and frequent law and order situation. We will do our best to see that the company is not closed.

Use of Security Deposits for setting up Scooter Factory

*1083. SHRI B. V. NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the market price of scooters is in excess of its ex-show-room price ;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate collecting this difference in the form of a security deposit from the allottees of scooters, to be forfeited in case of abuse of allotment and refunded in case of proper use at a time when the value of the scooter equals the sale price through depreciation ; and

(c) whether Government contemplate using this security deposit as capital for establishment of new units for manufacturing scooters ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) Government exercise on informal control over the selling prices of scooters and nobody need pay a price higher than the price approved by Government. No specific instance of any manufacturer or dealer charging a price for a new scooter higher than the one approved by Government has come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: In part of (b) of the question I have asked:

"if so,"

—that is to say, if there is a difference between the ex-showroom and market price—

"whether Government contemplate collecting this difference in the form of a security deposit from the allottees of scooters...."

I suppose it was made abundantly clear in parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question and all of them put together that the price differential was not at the level of the dealers or the manufacturers but it was at the level of the first allottee. Part (b) of the question will make it abundantly clear that if there was any intimation it was regarding the price that was taken by the allottee. If the hon. Minister agrees to this explanation, may I know whether the subsequent action that I have suggested will be followed? There has been no question at all, the question has never said it, that the blackmarketing or charging of higher price was either by the trader, or the dealer, or the manufacturer. The allottee gets it for a price of Rs. 3,500 and he immediately sells it for Rs. 5,500....

MR. SPEAKER: Is he still continuing the supplementary?

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I am trying to interpret the question to the hon. Minister. Let him answer it.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have not followed the question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have followed him. He has asked about the price difference at the allottee's level and not at the dealer's level.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I hope no further explanation is necessary.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The show-room price in Delhi has been fixed under an informal price regulation arrangement. The ex-show room price for Lambretta is Rs. 3,427; for Vespa Rs. 3,462; for Fantabulus Rs. 3,750; for self-kick starter of the same variety Rs. 4,060; for Rajdoot Rs. 3,516. These are the prices. For other areas the calculation will have to be made according to the distance. With regard to deposit, any person who registers himself has, along with the application for a scooter, to make post office savings deposit of Rs. 250. Then, under clause 8 of the order no man can purchase more than one scooter. This Rs. 250 remains as deposit in the post office, with government more or less.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the government or the hon. Minister that there exists a flourishing blackmarket in regard to scooters?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The answer is that no specific instance of any manufacturer or dealer charging a higher price has come to our notice.... (interruptions) Let me answer the question my own way. No specific instance of any manufacturer or dealer charging a price for a new scooter higher than the one than the one approved by Government has come to the notice of Government. That is the question with regard to selling of a new scooter. But I agree that there are cases of blackmarketing. For example, under the law after purchase of the scooter by somebody, he cannot transfer it within a certain period of time. But he can charge a black market price, not have formal registration and hand it over to somebody else. This kind of a thing is going on in view of the shortage in the country. So, there is a black market. I do not deny that.

SHRI AMRITNAHATA: Where does the manufacturers' quota go?

AN HON. MEMBER: In the black market.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I would like to know very clearly from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that agents, who collect scooters, from the manufacturers, are keeping all the scooters, are not selling them to allottees in proper time and are cheating them by tel-

ing them that the scooters have not yet arrived. Has this come to the notice of Government? In Bangalore these things are happening for a long time. Allottees are not getting the scooters in time even though the scooters are available with the agent. Would Government make an inquiry into this matter and take steps in this connection?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY: The question was relating to the higher price charged by the dealer and the manufacturer.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: They are asking for higher prices.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY: The information given to me by the hon. Member is with regard to the agents withholding scooters and not selling them. Certainly, I will take the information from the hon. Member and look into this aspect of the matter.

रेलवे की खान-पान व्यवस्था के विभाग की हानि

*1084. **श्री गेंदा सिंह:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे के खान-पान व्यवस्था विभाग को वर्ष 1970-71 में कितनी हानि हुई और इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) रेलवे के खान-पान विक्रेताओं की सहकारी संस्थाओं को ऐसे ठेके न दिये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) Departmental Catering on the Railways did not incur any loss in the year 1970, on the other hand, they earned a profit of Rs. 26.12 lakhs approximately.

(b) When it is proposed to appoint a new catering or vending contractor at a station, allotment of contract to Cooperatives run by railway staff or of vendors or voluntary social organisations, is favourably considered, subject to conditions, namely 1. reasonable rates ;

2. quality of foodstuff; and 3. satisfactory service. Where no such organisation is available capable of rendering satisfactory performance, the vacancy is advertised and filled up by allotment to a suitable contractor.

श्री गेंदा सिंह: जो डिपार्टमेंट के हाथ में केटरिंग है उसमें 26.12 लाख रुपये का मुनाफा हुआ है। इसमें तो यह सही है कि तरक्की हुई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या इस बात की तरफ भी आप का ध्यान है कि खाने का जो सामान है उसमें भी कुछ तरक्की हो ? मेरी जानकारी में यह आया है कि उसमें तरक्की नहीं हुई है।

सहकारी संस्थायें जो आवेदन पत्र देती हैं उन पर मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि सहानुभूति-पूर्वक विचार किया जाता है। इस बात को निम्न करने के लिए क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि कितने आवेदन पत्र आए थे और उनमें से कितनों पर सहानुभूति के साथ विचार करके सहकारी संस्थाओं को केटरिंग का काम दिया गया ? संख्या बतलाने की क्या मंत्री महोदय कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA: Regarding the quality of food I receive several complaints that at various places the service is not satisfactory. In some places the service is satisfactory. We are continuously watching so that improvement may be made. We have taken strict measures. We have decentralised the controlling authority so that the man on the spot can continuously check. This is a question where food preparation is done daily. Sometimes it is not up to standard. I am aware of it. We are continuously trying to improve it.

So far as the second question is concerned, I have not got the figures here of the number of applications received and the number granted because it pertains to all the rail zones all over India. If the hon. Member is particular, I will collect the figures and supply to him.

श्री गेंदा सिंह: यह सूचना है कि सहकारी संस्थाओं के जितने आवेदन पत्र आये, उन पर