

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 21, 1971/Asadha 30,
1893 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pending Applications with Press Registrar of India for Declaration of Newspapers and Weeklies

*1261. SHRI HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether hundreds of applications are pending with the Press Registrar of India for declaration of new Newspapers and Weeklies ; and

(b) if so, the causes of delay in their disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHI) : (a) No, Sir. References received from Magistrates up to July 15, 1971 have all been disposed of and there are no arrears in the office of the Press Registrar.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI HARI SINGH : May I know from the hon. Minister as to in what time a newspaper weekly has been disposed of for the declaration from the office ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : I would like to clear one point here. Actually, the Registrar of Newspapers has got nothing to do with the declaration. He has to clear the title of the newspaper and it takes seven to ten days to clear the title of a newspaper. Giving the declaration is the job of the magistrate.

SHRI HARI SINGH : May I know from the hon. Minister as to what time Government has taken for the declaration of the name of the paper finally ?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : That is what I have said. It takes nearly seven to ten days to clear the title of a newspaper.

Report of Study Team on Cashew Industry

*1262. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Experts Team recently sent by the Central Government to study the problems facing the cashew industry in Kerala has submitted its report ; and

(b) if so, what are their main recommendations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(1) Distribution of imported raw nuts must be on the basis of actual processing capacity of the registered units.

(2) Cashew Corporation of India should even link allocation of imported nuts with the use of indigenous nuts for the purposes of exports.

(3) A special group may be sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Trade consisting of representatives of this Ministry, Cashew Corporation of India, and the DGTD to ascertain present processing capacity.

(4) The State Government should review Registration of Cashew Factories under the Factories Act.

(5) Provision of the Industries Act should be effectively applied to Cashew Industry.

(6) The Banks should give a special treatment to cashew industry while advancing loans, in view of various problems faced by the industry.

(7) Public Sector may be enlarged in cashew industry to the extent of about 20% of the whole of cashew industry.

(8) Cashew Commissioner may be appointed to co-ordinate various aspects of cashew Industry such as production, imports and exports.

(9) Immediate canalisation of exports may not be resorted to.

(10) They have also thought that application of National Minimum wage in cashew Industry is neither feasible nor desirable.

(11) The State Government may exempt cashew plantations from the Land Ceiling Law.

(12) Role of the Cashew Corporation may be enlarged, even indigenous supplies of cashew should also be brought under their purview.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : In view of the big crisis in the cashew industry in Kerala the Prime Minister promised a high level delegation for Kerala to give a help of Rs. 40 lakhs to take over ten cashew industries from Kerala : Up to this time nothing has been done. What happened to that promise, I would like to know.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : When the Kerala delegation met the Prime Minister during the crisis period, she offered financial assistance to run ten cashew factories. It has been subsequently worked out from figures and cash flow sheets that Rs. 20 lakhs would be enough apart from institutional finance for working capital and that has been offered.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : You have cut it by half.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : From the cash flow sheets it has been worked out that Rs. 20 lakhs would be more than enough apart from

the working capital which is available from institutional financing.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : In view of the fact that a large number of cashew factories are closed in Kerala due to the dearth of raw nuts, I would like to know from the Government as to what steps they are going to take to get more raw nuts from abroad and also to increase the production of raw nuts in Kerala.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Regarding the first question I may inform the hon. Member that in comparison to the raw nut import of 1,63,000 tonnes in 1969-70 and 1,68,000 tonnes in 1970-71, this year we will be able to procure so much or more than the two previous years. Already during April, May and June we have imported 48,000 tonnes and nearly 67,000 tonnes are in the pipeline being shipped at the rate of two ships a month which would take us up to September. By that time the new season will be on. We are making arrangements to negotiate nuts available in the fresh season also. So, I can assure the hon. Member that we may not under ordinary circumstances suffer from lack of raw nut imports.

Regarding the second question, we have a Rs. 1 crore project for additional cashew plantation in the Central sector itself. Apart from this, we have advised State Governments to form Cashew Corporations so that they can utilise the forest land for cashew plantations through institutional financing.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR : In view of the fact that most of the units in the cashew industry in Kerala have closed down in the last two or three years, in view of the fact that those units which have been working in the beginning under proper working conditions in the private sector are feeling shortage of raw nuts and have to close down and in view of the fact that one of the recommendations of the high power Commission was to distribute quota on the basis of capacity of various units, will the Government reconsider their policy that they have laid down, that is, to give quota on the basis of consumption last year and to give priority to those units which remained closed last year and which require additional quota this year ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : In the statement laid down on the Table of the House, it has been clearly spelt out that distribution of quota for

import of raw nuts must be on the basis of actual processing capacity of the registered units. Further, as per recommendation No. 4, the State Governments have been advised to review the registration of cashew factories so that defunct units may not utilise the raw nuts allocation. Also, the State Governments have been advised that provisions of the Industries Act should be effectively applied to cashew industry so that excessive capacity is not created.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR : The recommendation of the Commission is entirely different. I was asking whether in view of the recommendation, the Government will give quota on the basis of the recommendation rather than on the basis of the original policy laid down by Government to those units which were closed last year.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is quite clear that the distribution of raw nuts must be on the basis of actual processing capacity. We will be definitely taking into consideration what is the performance of the concerned units last year.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : May I know if the import of raw nuts is allowed only to units established in Kerala or is it allowed to some units in other States like Orissa which have got a very good export potential?

MR. SPEAKER : This is about Kerala.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Just now the hon. Minister said that Rs. 20 lakhs help has been offered to Kerala as against Rs. 40 lakhs which was agreed to before. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this offer has already travelled and reached Trivandrum and whether the Kerala Government has accepted or rejected it.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : The Industries Minister of Kerala was told that Rs. 20 lakhs would be available as per the promise made by the Prime Minister to help the cashew industry in Kerala. But he has turned down that offer.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : This is a very serious matter. The Prime Minister had given an assurance of Rs. 40 lakhs and they have now gone back on that. *(Interruption)*...

Transistorized T. V. Sets

*1263. **SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) by what time transistorized T. V. sets will be available in Delhi and what will be the range of their prices; and

(b) by what time the television users will be able to benefit from television programmes from the Satellite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Indigenously made transistorized T. V. sets are expected to be available in the market in about two years' time; prices of such sets are likely to be lower than those of valve sets.

(b) In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on September 18, 1969 between the Government of India and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the U. S. A., a collaborative Indo-US experiment will be implemented in mid-1974 in which television programmes will be received via a synchronous Satellite.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : There are three organisations in the country, the Electronic Research Institute at Pilani, the Bharat Electronics of Defence Ministry and the Electronics Corporation at Hyderabad, and these three organisations are trying to develop and manufacture special types of T. V. receivers. I would like to know whether there is any co-ordination between these three organisations or any Corporation is going to be set up to look after them.

SHRI K. C. PANT : As the House knows, only recently, some months ago, an Electronics Commission was set up and this Electronics Commission, among other things, sees that the development of electronics is on the right lines and to the extent necessary, co-ordinates the activities of the various electronic units, both on the research side and on the manufacturing side. That is the main instrument of co-ordination.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : How many applications have been received for licences? Whether any application for licence from the eastern region, especially from Bengal, has been received?