

है और यह नहीं कहा जा सकता है कि कब तक निर्णय हो सकेगा।

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : This demand has been made by the Bhartiya Jana Sangh. Has the CPI accepted it ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI BAJPAI : Many parties have accepted it.

जो उत्तर मंत्री महोदय ने दिया है उससे प्रतीत होता है कि मतदाताओं की संख्या बढ़ जायेगी, इसलिए सरकार कुछ चिन्तित है और वह नहीं चाहती है कि मतदाताओं की संख्या बढ़े। मैं समझता हूँ कि मतदाताओं की संख्या बढ़ने से कुछ तो सरकार की जिम्मेवारी बढ़ेगी। लेकिन यह प्रश्न सिद्धान्त का है। जब हमारा संविधान बना तब स्थिति अलग थी, आज स्थिति भिन्न है। आज लड़के लड़कियाँ जल्दी बड़े होने लगे हैं और 18 साल का लड़का जायदाद के बारे में निर्णय कर सकता है, उत्तराधिकारी बन सकता है। अमरीका में तथा ब्रिटेन में भी उम्र घटा दी गई है। इन सारी बातों को ध्यान में रख कर कोई जल्दी फैसला किया जायगा ? क्या इसके लिए सरकार प्रयत्नशील है ?

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी : अमरीका और ब्रिटेन की परिस्थिति और भारत की परिस्थिति में अन्तर है। वहाँ के युवकों और यहाँ के युवकों की मनोवृत्ति में अन्तर है। इस देश में जो कानून हैं उनके अनुसार और संविधान के आर्टिकल 326 के अनुसार एडल्ट सफरेज उमी को प्राप्त होगा जिसकी आयु 21 साल होगी। एडल्ट में मैजोरिटी आफ अंडर-स्टैंडिंग होनी चाहिये। यहाँ जो कानून हैं उनके अनुसार अभी मैजोरिटी आफ अंडर-स्टैंडिंग के लिए उम्र 21 साल मानी गई है जैसे गार्डियन्ज इनवार्ड्ज एक्ट में, स्पेशल मैरेज एक्ट में, क्रिश्चियन मैरेज एक्ट में। इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए इसकी जल्दी फैसला होना सम्भव नहीं है।

Idle Capacity in Industries

*34. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:** Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of the idle capacity lying in different industries from 1968-69, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to rectify all avoidable imbalances in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) A statement indicating the percentage of utilisation of capacities in certain selected industries during 1968, 1969 and 1970 is laid on the Table of the House (Placed in Library. See No. LT-68/71)

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government to facilitate fuller utilisation of the installed capacities :—

- (i) Import of raw materials and components has been significantly liberalised. Steel imports particularly has been permitted on a very liberal basis.
- (ii) Various developmental programmes are being reviewed with a view to reviving the demand for capital goods etc., to the extent possible; and
- (iii) Industrial undertakings have been permitted to diversify their production for the manufacture of new articles without a licence to the extent of 25 % of the licensed capacity subject to certain condition. A number of industries have availed of this relaxation in the licensing policy.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I find from the statement that in as many as 24 out of the 36 engineering industries listed here, the capacity utilised is below 50 per cent.

May I know if in view of this melancholy state of things, Government can tell us that there is an optimum figure below which the capacity utilisation being less means a very serious detriment to the economy, and if that is so, what steps are being taken in this regard ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : I would immediately agree with the hon. Member that it is a serious situation, and I have already indicated in my answer the steps taken by the Government to ameliorate the situation.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I find that this kind of question continues to be asked from year to year and even three years ago Government told us more or less the same kind of thing as the hon. Minister tells us today in regard to the steps being taken by Government. Is there any evaluation of the steps which have been taken so far and what has been the actual result of those steps having been taken from at least as early as 1966 ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : We have evaluated, and therefore we have taken certain steps as I have already indicated. Out of the total import requirements of the economy estimated at Rs. 9,730 crores for the Fourth Plan period, Rs. 7,840 would be for maintenance imports and imports of raw materials, components and spares needed for the sustenance and amelioration of the growth of industrial production. The import policy places growing recognition on the need for imported raw materials particularly for the priority industries, and export industries in the small-scale industry. Liberal imports of steel have been allowed to meet the existing shortage, and I hope this will meet the problem of the engineering industries.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : What is the idle capacity in HEC, Ranchi, and what concrete proposals are Government going to take to utilise that idle capacity ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : I want notice for this question.

SHRI A. N. VIDYALANKAR : Will the Minister give us the break-up of the

idle capacity of the public sector and private sector industries ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : I have not got the figures separately for the public sector and private sector. The figures are consolidated.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The figures given in the statement reveal a very alarming state of affairs. Actually I would like to know from the Minister whether these very low figures of utilisation are also due to the fact that the licensed capacity and the actually installed capacity vary very greatly. Are these figures in relation to the licensed capacity or in relation to the actually installed capacity, or is it that a large number of people who are given licences for a certain capacity do not in actual fact, particularly in the private sector, instal the capacity to which they are entitled under the licence ?

How can such low figures of utilization be explained otherwise in all cases—engineering and non-engineering industries alike ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : There are certain cases in which less than 50 per cent utilisation is there. These are the wood-working machines, cement mill machinery, vehicular type of diesel engineering industries, structural—

MR. SPEAKER : The question is very simple; whether this is the licensed capacity mentioned in the license or not.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : It is the licensed capacity.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I want him to be clear about the reply. Does he mean to say that all these figures in this column refer to the licensed capacity—that is, in relation to the licensed capacity, so much is being utilised—or the actual installed capacity ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : No. I correct myself, this refers to the installed capacity.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Earlier,

you said it is licensed capacity, *(Interruption)* I can get a licence for making 10,000 units and actually set up a plant which will have a capacity of only 2,000.

AN HON. MEMBER : Let him find out.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : These are the installed capacities. *(Interruption)*

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Out of the 36 items mentioned in the list, there are 26 items where the utilization capacity is less than 50 per cent, and it ranges up to eighty percent. There is no improvement in that. May I know from the hon. Minister what are the main reasons for such a low utilisation on a big scale : whether it is due to the paucity of raw materials or due to demands. Let the hon. Minister find out this.

Secondly, due to the unutilised capacity, we have to import many items. While we know the capacity, it is not being produced and so it has to be imported. May I know what steps the Government is going to take in future to remove this anomaly ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : There are three reasons for this. One is the inadequate demand in the case of certain industries; the demands are changing. Secondly, there is shortage of raw material in the case of some; and thirdly, labour-management problems. As to the steps taken, I have already enumerated in my answer.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : What steps are you going to take ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Next question.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Sir, I raise a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please not now.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Yesterday the Prime Minister assured us that the Government would look into this question of nomenclature. But so far, we have been kept in the dark. What is the position, and

what is the decision that the Government has taken ?

MR. SPEAKER : We are having some meetings.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : We were expecting that some decision would be announced. But nothing has been announced so far.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : If you want me to say what has happened at the meeting, I can say it. Shall I be permitted to do so ?

MR. SPEAKER : Let me be informed through regular sources.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : It seems that the Prime Minister has said...*(Interruption)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not yet informed. Let me have the information.

SHRI CCHITTIBABU : Without knowing the designation of the Ministers, how can we follow ?

MR. SPEAKER : I was going to enquire about it, and I shall let you know.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : I can summarise the whole lot.

MR. SPEAKER : I know you can summarise.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : The Prime Minister has agreed to revoke the Presidential order; she would consult her colleagues and all that. She has promised that. But Still, these questions are not withdrawn, so, till the time they withdraw this, we in the DMK party do not wish to participate in the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of there being withdrawn. The point is we have to type out and proceed with the question in advance.

SHRI K. MANOHARAN : Till such time this is withdrawn, we have decided not to participate in the Question Hour. So, we want to walk out.

(*Shri Manoharan and some other Members then left the House*)

SHRI R. BALKRISHNA PILLAI : The Kerala Congress Party also do not wish to participate in the Question Hour.

(*Shri R. Balkrishna Pillai, Shri P. K. Mookkiah Thevar and Some other Members also left the House*)

Afro-Asian Conference

*35. **SHRI NIHAR LASKER :** Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Afro-Asian Conference was held in New Delhi in the month of April 1, 1971 and it decided to set-up a 7-Nation Standing Committee;

(b) if so, the names of the Members of the Standing Committee;

(c) what were the subjects discussed at the Conference; and

(d) how far India was benefitted by arranging such Conference in India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Mr. M. A. Rifaat (UAR)

(2) Mr. S. Viraswami (Mauritius)

(3) Mr. Hassan Ansari (Iran)

(4) Mr. K. L. Nanjappa (India)

(5) Mr. Habel Akpama (Togo)

(6) Mr. H. M. Adolwa (Kenya)

(7) Mr. B. M. Catane (Philippines)

(c) The subjects discussed at the Conference are as follows :

I. Basic strategy and approach for

the development of small scale industries.

2. Effective Tools for the development of small scale industries.

3. (i) Inter-State Cooperation of Afro-Asian countries on a bilateral and multi-lateral basis to further the Development of small scale industries and facilitate international sub-contracting.

(ii) Role of International Agencies for the development of small scale industries.

(d) Since the problems of developing countries of the Afro-Asian region are more or less similar, there is considerable scope for regional economic co-operation among these countries and India could play a vital role in promoting such co-operation for the development of small-scale industries in the different countries of the region by rendering Consultancy services and by encouraging mutual trade and joint industrial ventures including sub-contracting. It is expected that the demand for Indian machinery and equipment and Indian experts from Afro-Asian countries will increase considerably.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Some of our own States, including the State from which the hon. Minister comes, namely Assam, have not developed their small-scale industries. Without developing our own States how is it that we are thinking of developing small-scale industries in Afro-Asian countries? Will the Minister first try to develop small-scale industries in our own country and then think of going to other countries?

SHRI PILOO MODY : Let him start with his home-town.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a question, but a suggestion which the Minister should kindly note.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : May I know how far they have utilised this occasion to send some of our own finished products of our small-scale industries to the Afro-Asian