

कहा कि कमेटी के लिये तो नहीं लेकिन अगर कमिशन के लिए हो सके तो काउंसिल को नियुक्त किया जाए। जैसा मैंने कहा काउंसिल से भी पूछा गया था। जब कमिशन ने एप्रूव किया, ला मिनिस्ट्री ने एप्रूव किया, उसके बाद काउंसिल को पूछा गया। लेकिन काउंसिल उनके साथ नहीं जा सका।

श्री बिक्रम चन्द महाजन : भारत में सिर्फ एक ही वकील था जिस को गवर्नमेंट ने एप्रोच किया ? क्या किसी और से भी पूछा गया था ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप पहले कहां चले गये थे ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : पहले एक दूसरे सीनियर वकील को सुप्रीम कोर्ट से छांटा गया था। यह तय हो गया था कि उनको इसमें नियुक्त किया जाए। लेकिन बाद में कमिशन ही ने बताया कि वह एक दूसरी इनक्वायरी में इसी सम्बन्ध में जो श्री शाह नवाज खां के अध्यक्षता में हुई थी, अभीष्ट हो चुके हैं। इस लिए उनके बारे में यह कहा गया कि यह उपयुक्त नहीं होगा कि उनको इसमें रखा जाए।

#### Decline in India's Import Trade with Western Advanced Countries

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\*817 SHRI P. GANGADEB :  
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of advanced countries of the West in India's import trade has declined in recent years according to the study released by the World Trade Department of the Indian Chamber of Commerce;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ; and

(c) the steps being considered in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) Does not arise.

#### Statement

A shift in our pattern of imports as well as greater diversification of sources of supply of our imports are responsible for this outcome. Substantial reductions in imports of foodgrains (mainly wheat) manufactured fertilizers, machinery excluding agricultural transport equipment and various other intermediate and finished products from developed western countries resulted in reducing their share in India's imports between 1967-68 and 1969-70. Increase in the production of foodgrains in the country enabled us to reduce our imports of wheat from USA and Canada during the period under review by 50%. To some extent there was a fall in the import demand for certain capital goods in the country due to the industrial recession. Reduction in imports of other items to a great extent reflects the progress made by India in import substitution. This type of structural change in the economy is a welcome development. India's growing economic relations with socialist countries have helped to diversify our sources of imports and to reduce our dependence on Western countries. The share of socialist countries in India's imports increased from 11 per cent in 1967-68 to 18 per cent in 1969-70.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : I would like to know if there has been any fall in aided credit from Europe as a result of which our imports declined ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : This is a question about import trade.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : It is a connected question.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : If he wants to know about exports he should give notice of a separate question. Imports from West have declined mainly because of other factors which I have explained in the statement.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : May I know the overall decline in the volume in trade and whether it is due to the European Common Market ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** European Common Market is not the main reason. Mainly the structure and pattern of our import has changed. From Africa and rupee-payment countries it has increased, especially in the case of raw materials. In the case of Western Europe it has gone down. The import of wheat from Canada and America has gone down considerably.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE :** Will the hon. Minister give concrete figures about the decline in imports from Western countries year-wise ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** The import from West has declined from 67 percent in 1967-68 to 56 per cent in 1968-69 and 53 per cent in 1969-70.

**SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI :** The hon. Minister has stated in the statement.

“To some extent there was a fall in the import demand for certain capital goods in the country due to the industrial recession.”

May I know whether there is any decrease in production due to the decrease in the import of capital goods from foreign countries ?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** As the hon. Member knows, the recession is in the engineering industry. So, there has been less of imports of capital goods required by the engineering industry.

#### International News Agency

\*818. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether exploration of the possibility of starting an International News Agency with Asian participation and financial assistance from the UNESCO has been suggested by the Mass Communication Sub-Commission of the Indian National Commission for co-operation with the UNESCO;

(b) whether Government have examined this suggestion; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) :** (a) Government's attention has been drawn to a draft summary record of discussion at a meeting of the Mass Communication Sub-Commission of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO where such a recommendation has been made. The approved record of this discussion has, however, not been communicated to Government yet.

(b) In the circumstances mentioned in reply to part (a) of the Question, Government have had no occasion to examine the suggestion.

(c) Does not arise.

**SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that some time back the Government had proposed to set-up an independent news agency. If so, what has happened to that proposal.

**SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA :** The Government's decision is to promote and support a news agency but not to set-up a news agency of its own.

**SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** In view of the fact that most of the world news agencies dominated by Western imperialist interests are giving distorted news about the developing countries. I would like to know whether the Government of India feels it necessary to set-up an independent news agency ? If so, will the Government pursue the matter ?

**SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA :** The Government of India feels the necessity of supporting an Indian international news agency because the effective dissemination of news from and to India is not to the extent which the Government desires.

**श्री शशि झूषण :** ब्रिटेन और फ्रांस में रायटर जैसी न्यूज एजेंसी क्या इंडिपेंडेंट है ? अगर वह सरकार से 99 परसेंट पैसा पा कर चल सकती है तो हमारे अपने देश में ऐसी न्यूज एजेंसी आप क्यों नहीं बना सकते हैं जो एशिया अफ्रीका तथा दूसरे समाजवादी देशों की खबरें हमें दे सके और अपने देश की खबरें उन त