

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : There was quite a long discussion on this matter in the National Integration Council. Shri Vajpayee and other members of his party were present there. I do think the House expects me to go into all those details. If they like, we could make the material available to them.

The question is not of theoretical definition. It is a question, as I have said on many occasions, where some people create an atmosphere which leads to an incident which in a normal atmosphere would not become a communal does become one, if feelings are created against a particular community. This is what we are against and this is what Government are pledged to fight, no matter who indulges in it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I asked an entirely different question, though this explanation is welcome. We are also pledged to fight communal and anti-national tendencies. I asked whether Government proposed to appoint an independent commission to define communalism and also which of the parties are actually communal parties. Let them say yes or no.

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : मैंने कह दिया है, इस विषय पर सब पोलिटिकल पार्टीज के साथ बहस हो चुकी है।

श्री इयामनम्बन मिश्र : आखीर में फैसला क्या हुआ ?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : फैसला मैं आप को भेज दूंगी।

As regards a commission, it is not a practical proposition. Who is an 'independent' person in that sense.

Marketing of Indian Tea Abroad

*43. SHRI J. M. GOWDER : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the keen competition which our tea is facing in the world market; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the sales of tea?

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

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

Statement

Government have taken several steps to improve the sales of tea in foreign markets of which the important steps taken to augment the exports of tea are :—

- (1) abolition of export duty on tea from 1-3-70 ;
- (2) giving *ad hoc* rebate in respect of excise duty on tea exports at rates varying with the price of exported tea;
- (3) a replanting subsidy scheme at the rate of Rs. 3,500/- per hectare for plain gardens and Rs. 4500/- per hectare for hill gardens for helping the industry in carrying our replantation of old tea areas to increase production, reduce costs and improve quality;
- (4) promotional measures for Indian tea through the offices of the Tea Board functioning the in London, Brussels, New York, Cairo and Sydney and Tea Centres established at London, Edinburgh, Cairo and Sydney;
- (5) promotion of special pack of Indian tea in selected markets abroad with the cooperation of the local blender/packer;
- (6) advertisements through appropriate media of publicity in countries abroad;
- (7) participation in trade fairs and exhibitions;

- (8) sponsoring delegations abroad and inviting delegations from foreign countries to visit India to promote the interest of tea; and
- (9) undertaking generic promotion of tea in the overseas markets for increasing consumption of tea through membership in Tea Council functioning in various countries abroad in collaboration with tea producing countries and the local tea trade.

International measures to stabilise tea prices have also been under discussion under the auspices of F.A.O. In view of the anticipated weakening prices in the year 1971, it was agreed in the Second Session of F.A.O. Consultative Committee on Tea in New Delhi that the global export quota of black tea in 1971 should be maintained at the same level as agreed in connection with the *ad hoc* arrangement for 1970, with provision for a review early in 1970 at which time additional export quotas not exceeding 10,000 tons will be allotted if this is justified by the market situation. It was agreed to remove 90 million lbs. of tea from the export projection of producing countries from the world market during the year 1970. Efforts are being concentrated to find out a long time solution by regulation of exports in world market. The Exporters Group of the F.A.O. Consultative Committee on tea is expected to meet in Rome in the early April, 1971 to consider this problem further.

SHRI J.M. GOWDER : As the propaganda conducted so far by Government is not effective and efficient, will Government consider bringing about changes in the existing technique and scale of propaganda so as to make it an effective propaganda for Indian tea in overseas markets ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : For effective propaganda, we have got the Tea Board; it

looks after the publicity part of it. Recently we had meetings about it in London, Canada and elsewhere. We want to reorganise the Publicity part for popularisation of the tea drink. But drinking habits have changed. We have to accept facts of life. It is a fact that the consumption of tea has come down considerably when compared to the growth of population.

SHRI J. M. GOWDER : Will the public sector corporation for the sale of Packing tea proposed to be set up by Government give facilities for direct purchase of tea by the purchasing countries avoiding the middlemen or other intermediary agencies so as to enable the producer to derive the maximum benefit ?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : I have said in reply to the first question that we are proposing to set up a corporation for packing tea. This corporation would come into being in two or three weeks' time. We have got the proposal; we have prepared a paper on the recommendations made by the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Though the Government have given rebates and they have removed the export duty, the introduction of zonal levies on ex-factory tea, varying from 30 to 150 per cent, not only makes our prices non-competitive, but partially cancels out even the rebate in most of the cases. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider abolition of these zonal levies to get more export for our tea in the world market.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : It is difficult to say anything at this stage. These questions are before us, and I do not think that it will be advisable for me to say anything at this stage. We will be able to say something in the next session.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sanghi was there ?

SHRI N.K. SANGHI : Yes, Sir. He replied to my question, then you went to the next question.

MR. SPEAKER : I think he should call a bit louder.

Tariff Commission's Report on Nylon Yarn Prices

*42. SHRI N.K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been able to come to any conclusion on the report of the Tariff Commission on Nylon Yarn prices;

(b) if so, Government's reaction to the recommendations made by the Tariff commission on Various aspects affecting the Nylon Yarn industry; and

(c) whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table of the House and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L.N. MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. As soon as Government have taken decision on the recommendations of the Tariff Commission.

SHRI N.K. SANGHI : The hon. Minister had stated in the Fourth Lok Sabha last November that he was going to lay the report on the table of the House very soon. Already six months have passed. It is a very serious matter. May I know what the objection is to the hon. Minister laying the report on the table of the House ?

Irrespective of when and what they decide, in case they lay the report, we can comment on it, and the Government can take a decision in the light of the views of the hon. Members. May I know if he has any particular objection ? Why should it

not be a matter of policy that whenever a Tariff Commission report is presented, it should be laid on the table of the House ? They can take their own time to come to a decision.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : It will be settling up a very dangerous precedent to make public the Tariff Commission's recommendations before we take a decision. There were three reports. On one report we have already taken a decision. That is about rayon tyre chord. The report on nylon filament yarn came in September last and that on rayon in August last, and they are under the consideration of the Government. We have already sent our comments to the other Ministries, and we are expecting their comments, and we will be able to take a decision very soon. It is a fact that there has been delay, but there has not been any unusual delay. There are other reports where decisions have taken two to three years. Here it has taken only a few months. In the mean time a voluntary agreement has been arrived at between the spinners and weavers and it has worked well.

SHRI N.K. SANGHI : I welcome the agreement between the weavers and the producers, but why has one of the producers been left out of the agreement ?

SHRI L.N. MISHRA : I am not aware anyone has been left out. It was a voluntary agreement. Government only used its good offices to bring them to some kind of settlement. If one party has been left out, I would like to have notice of it.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : In view of the fact that the report was received a few months back, and in view of the fact that the Government knows full well that in Amritsar, Surat and various other places in the country, particularly the powerloom weavers are the worst sufferers, may I know why Government is reluctant to make a decision in the matter? May I know from the hon. Minister how long he will take in coming to a final decision in the matter ? Will he assure the House that it will be done with in one month at least from today ?