

the delay caused by longer alternative route, are factors likely to have adverse effect on the trade. However, by and large, the traders have managed to keep to their commitments and no reports of cancellation of orders of any magnitude have come to Government's notice so far.

#### Short Loading of Coal Wagons in Calcutta

\*1744. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received of heavy losses suffered by the wholesale coal dealers in Calcutta area due to persistent short loading of coal wagons;

(b) whether this is due to malpractices at the weighbridge centres or due to other causes; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) Yes, Sir, some complaints without quoting any specific instances have been received.

(b) Investigations made at weighbridge stations have not brought out any evidence of malpractices at the weighbridge stations. Some shortage in coal wagons is likely to occur during transit, considering the fact that this commodity is mainly moved in open wagons. With all reasonable security arrangements, some cases of victimisation of coal wagons during transit cannot be ruled out.

(c) Concentrated security checks are frequently exercised at vulnerable points, wherever possible, to prevent pilferage and loss of coal. Repeated checks are also carried out by Traffic Inspectors and officers, both surprise and otherwise, at forwarding points. It has been suggested to the complainants that to satisfy themselves, they may send their representatives to witness weighing at weighbridge stations.

#### Consortium for Designing and Supply of Fertiliser Plants

\*1745. **Shri D. N. Patodia:**  
**Shri R. Barua;**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chemicals Plant and Machinery Association of India is taking an initiative to form a consortium consisting of the Chemical Plant manufacturers, the Fertilisers Corporation of India and the Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. to undertake the designing and supply of complete fertilizer plants on a turnkey basis;

(b) whether the said Association has submitted their plan to Government to constitute such a consortium; and

(c) if so, whether Government have considered their plan in this regard?

**The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed):** (a) The Chairman of the Chemicals Plant and Machinery Association of India had mentioned in a Symposium on chemical plant, design and fabrication held in New Delhi on 13th and 14th April, 1967, that they were examining the possibility of forming a Consortium to supply complete plants on turnkey basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Manufacture of Cigarettes

\*1746. **Shri Baburao Patel:** Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5666 on the 14th July, 1967 and state:

(a) the reasons why Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd., Vazir Sultan Tobacco

Co. Ltd., Godfrey Phillips Ltd. were permitted foreign exchange of Rs. 1,87,49,000 during 1966-67 to purchase foreign tobacco, flavouring agents, preservatives and packing paper and additionally were allowed to remit to foreign countries their annual dividends of about Rs. 1,11,57,999 during 1964-65 when we are short of foreign exchange;

(b) the reasons for extending these special and extraordinary manufacturing and trading privileges to these three foreign companies when there are five Indian concerns equally competent to meet the demand of our people for cigarettes; and

(c) the particular benefit to our country by the special patronage given by Government to the three foreign companies?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) Foreign exchange expenditure to the extent of Rs. 1,87,49,000 during 1966-67 was incurred on the import of tobacco under PL-480, as also on the import of a few preservatives, flavouring agents and special type of packing paper for the entire cigarette industry in the country and not for the 3 foreign firms alone. The imported tobacco and flavouring agents were required for blending with indigenous tobacco for manufacture of high class cigarettes for tourists etc. On the other hand repatriation of dividends on foreign capital invested in the country is allowed under the prevailing rules.

(b) The foreign firms enjoy no special manufacturing and trading privileges as compared to the Indian Companies. In fact Indian cigarette firms are being encouraged to augment their production and thereby have an increased share in the expanding market.

(c) The question does not arise in view of the position given in part (b).

सूती कपड़े पर विबंधन हटाया

\* 1747. श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री : क्या वणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय सूती कपड़ा मिलों की संस्था के विशेषज्ञों के एक दल द्वारा दिये गये उस प्रतिवेदन की और सरकार का ध्यान दिलाया गया है, जिसमें यह सिफारिश की गई है कि सभी किस्मों के सूती कपड़े पर से नियंत्रण हटाया जाये और कपड़े की नियंत्रित किस्मों का उत्पादन 40 प्रतिशत से घटा कर 25 प्रतिशत किया जाये ;

(ख) इस प्रतिवेदन में की गई अन्य सिफारिशों का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इसके बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वणिज्य मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) :

(क) जी, हाँ। विशेषज्ञों के एक दल, जिसमें न केवल भारतीय सूती कपड़ा मिल संघ के प्रतिनिधि ही शामिल हैं अपितु व्यापारियों तथा उत्पादकों के भी प्रतिनिधि हैं, द्वारा दिए गए उस प्रतिवेदन की और सरकार का ध्यान दिलाया गया है जिसमें अन्य विषयों के साथ यह सिफारिश हुई थी कि कपड़े की नियंत्रित किस्मों का उत्पादन 40 प्रतिशत से घटा कर 25 प्रतिशत कर दिया जाए।

(ख) उस प्रतिवेदन में की गई अन्य सिफारिशों की एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखी जाती है। [पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी। देखिये संख्या LT 143/30/1967]।

(ग) माननीय सदस्य का ध्यान मेरे द्वारा 10 अगस्त, 1967 को कपास तथा कपड़ा नीति के सम्बन्ध में दिए गए वक्तव्य की ओर दिलाया जाता है।