

taken into consideration the manufacture of all the units. But the hon. member knows that some of these units actually last year manufactured much more than in the previous year, while there were certain units which manufactured much less than what they manufactured in the year previous to that. The industry is of such a nature that we cannot assure the order unitwise. It will have to depend on the region where these things are required and how far these things have to be carried from one place to another. So far as heavy structurals are concerned, the difficulties which have been placed before me are that actually we are supplying less than the demand for those structurals and by the end of the fourth plan, there will be a shortage even after what we will be manufacturing in the three or four projects which have been taken up in the public sector. So far as light structurals are concerned, it is true that there has been idle capacity and for that purpose, we have been constantly meeting all those persons who represent the private industry to see how we can help them.

**Mr. Speaker:** If for every supplementary the whole policy is given out, only one question can be answered in the whole day.

**Shri N. K. Somani:** He has not given the answer to my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Everybody says like that. Next question.

मैसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर एण्ड कम्पनी

+

\* 842. श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

श्री विभूति मिश्र :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार मैसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर एण्ड कम्पनी को दिये गये ठेके की अवधि को पुनः बढ़ाने का है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Parimal Ghosh):** (a) and (b). Since provision existed in the previous agreement with M/s. A.H. Wheeler and Co. for its automatic renewal for a further period provided the service rendered was satisfactory, their contract has been renewed with effect from 1-1-1967.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : कितने दिनों के लिये यह रिन्यूअल हुआ है ?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** The contract has been renewed from 1-1-1967 till 31st December, 1975 for a period of 9 years.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : इस के पहले यह हाउस डिमांड कर रहा था कि व्हीलर का जो कंट्रैक्ट है उसे खत्म कर दिया जाये और सरकार यह कहती थी कि चूंकि कंट्रैक्ट है इसलिये खत्म नहीं किया जा सकता है । क्या कारण है कि व्हीलर को फिर कंट्रैक्ट दिया गया है जब कि दूसरे लोग इस कंट्रैक्ट को चाहते थे ?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** Sir, till 1960 it is a fact that there has been a concentration of quite a number of shops so far as Wheeler & Co., were concerned. The matter was reviewed in the year 1960 and in order to break that concentration it was decided that the agreement would be renewed only for a period of 5 years. After that there has been a representation from Wheeler & Co. and the representation was that because of not having the renewal clause there has been a certain amount of uncertainty in the matter of establishment and their staff. The matter was then reviewed and in consultation with the Ministry of Law it was decided that they will be given 5 years with a renewal option for another 5 years. After the expiry of the first 5 years when the

question of renewal for the second 5 years came up it was decided that the renewal clause will be deleted. But since then there has been a representation and the matter was again referred to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law decided that it is not competent for the Railways to amend the renewal clause unilaterally. As such it amounted almost to an automatic renewal of the contract every five years. So the Railways started negotiating with this firm and it was decided that the renewal clause would be deleted and the tenure will be extended from 5 years to 9 years. As a result of that the contract has been renewed from 1-1-1967 for 9 years till 31st December, 1975.

**Shri K. M. Abraham:** May I know whether the Government will consider the question of calling tenders in the open market; if not, what is the reason for that?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** This is done on the basis of payment of royalty. So no question of tenders comes in here. On the basis of a fixed royalty related to the sales, these contracts are fixed.

**श्री बलराम :** माने मारन मत्स्यिकार पद्धति देना कुछ ठीक नहीं है, ऐसा विचार बन रहा है, नरम्बानर नियन्त्रित मत्स्याघो फों देने से देनवे मत्स्यय क्या बचाना है ।

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** The matter has been finally decided and there is no question of any cancellation till the expiry of the term that has already been given to them. So the question cannot be reviewed at this stage.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether it is a fact that apart from giving the contract or renewing the contract of Wheeler & Co., the contract of one Shri Gulab Chand, who was also given a contract after partition, has been renewed?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** Yes, Sir.

**श्री बलराम सिंह :** क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलावेंगे कि कितने तर्कों पर यह ठेका दिया गया है ?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** The terms and conditions are that they will pay a royalty of 2-1/2 per cent on the gross turnover for a period of 9 years.

**Dr. Bhanu Sen:** Sir, years back the Government of India by an executive order banned all publications from the Soviet Union to be sold in these railway book stalls of Wheeler & Company. Later on we learnt that this order was revoked. But till now the Wheeler book stalls at railway stations do not display any Soviet literature. In view of the fact that we are having good relationship with the Soviet Union, has the Government thought it fit to ask them to supply Soviet literature?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** The question as to whether this Wheeler & Co., are selling Soviet literature or not has not come to our notice. If it is a fact the matter will be enquired into.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The hon. Minister was pleased to say that at the time of renewal in 1960 a clause for further extension up to five years from 1965 was included in the agreement. Did they consult the Law Department before they entered into a commitment from which they cannot escape even if there is no proper performance of the terms of the contract?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** Yes, Sir; this has been done.

**Shri B. N. Shastri:** May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Messrs. Wheeler & Company have sublet their stalls to some other parties?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** Some representations alleging that they are subletting their book-stalls to their agents have come to our notice and the matter has been referred to the Ministry of Law. The opinion of the Law

Ministry is that whenever a person appoints an agent it does not involve any assignment or transfer of the rights of the principal in the matter of the contract.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** What action have you taken when they have sub-let?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** They have not sub-let; they have appointed an agent and the appointment of an agent does not mean necessarily transferring the right.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Since Messrs. Wheeler & Company specialises only in the display of those books called shilling-shockers and not books that are worth reading and, at the same time, we know that in their stalls in particular regions the books written in that language or in that particular region are not in display or are not selected there may I know whether Government have seen to this fact that in the matter of selection of books Messrs. Wheeler & Company shows a little bit of the orthodoxy and selects books in regional languages also?

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** So far as our information goes, they are selling all types of books, including in regional languages.

**Shri Hem Barua:** They do not

**Shri Parimal Ghosh:** If so, as the hon. Member has mentioned that point, we will look into it.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I submit that whenever I go to a railway station I make it a point to visit the Wheeler & Company stall to examine the books? My knowledge is that their display is limited to a few types of books, mostly sex literature I tell you.

**Mr. Speaker:** The moment the hon. Member mentioned sex there is so much of commotion in the House. Why did he mention it?

**Shri Shashi Ranjan:** Just now the hon. Member, Dr. Sen, mentioned that

formerly Soviet literature were being rejected and now they are being accepted. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Communist Party of India have sent their own literature, of the same type, to the railways and whether they have accepted or rejected them?

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question

**Import of Newsprint**

+

**Shri George Fernandes:**  
**Shri J. H. Patel:**  
**Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent annually on the import of foreign newsprint into India; and

(b) the efforts made to increase the production of newsprint in India?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) Total amount of money spent on the import of foreign newsprint was of the order of Rs 693.41, 739.80, 618.80, and 976.70 lakhs during 1963-64 to 1966-67 (upto Feb. 1967).

(b) Capacity of the only newsprint mill in the country is being expanded from 30,000 to 75,000 tonnes per annum and the possibility of creating additional capacity in the public sector is being explored. Further to encourage investment in the private sector the newsprint industry has been exempted from the licensing provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, and any party can establish a newsprint plant without a licence under that Act.

जी जार्ज फर्नेन्डीस : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पब्लिक सेक्टर में यह जो न्यूज प्रिन्ट प्लांट है, इस वक्त उसकी पैदावार साल में 30,000 टन सालाना है। करीब सात साल से यह कह जा रहा है कि उसकी पैदावार 75,000 टन तक बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। यह जी