

the Delhi Administration over the management of certain hospitals;

(b) if so, the main points thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to resolve them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: It is said that because of disputes the hospitals are not properly equipped and the patients are not able to get adequate medicine. Is it a fact that there are disputes because of which the people are suffering?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: There is no dispute at all, and all the hospitals are catering to the patients that go there.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Are Government satisfied that there are adequate medicines and equipment in the hospitals in Delhi?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: The hon. Member is aware that recently a committee has been set up to go into the working of these hospitals, and as soon as the report is before us, we shall be able to make the necessary reforms which may be needed.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that recently there have been a large number of cases where incompetence in Delhi hospitals has been brought to light, and particularly in maternity cases infant mortality is rising in Delhi on account of sheer incompetence of doctors who are handling these cases?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: I am afraid the hon. Member is making a very sweeping remark about the incompetence of our doctors who are as a matter of fact....

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: May I submit that only yesterday this had happened, and the baby's head was pressed by forceps and it died on account of brain haemorrhage? Is the hon. Minister prepared to investigate into that? The gentleman concerned happens to be the brother of the director of the Institute of Applied Economic Growth. I am giving him the facts.

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: The facts may be given to me, and we shall certainly go into the matter.

#### AFFAIRS OF INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

\*822. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its judgment of the 28th November, 1967 while allowing the appeal of Commissioner of income-tax, Calcutta had remarked that there was a very disturbing state of affairs prevailing in the Income-Tax Department;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has also alluded to the startling revelation that the entire record of the assessee's case both before the Income Tax Officer and the Appellate Assistant Commissioner was found missing; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir. The observations were made in the case of Commissioner of Income-tax, West Bengal, Calcutta vs. Smt. Anusuya Devi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Instructions already exist that files should be kept in locked almirahs after office hours. The Income-tax Officers are also required, at the beginning of each year, to make a physical check of all the files and furnish a certificate to the Commissioner of Income-tax that none of them

is missing. After the receipt of the Supreme Court judgment, all the Commissioners have been asked to review the system of keeping records in their respective charges and to suggest measures by 31-12-1987 for ensuring their security. After the receipt of the reports, the Board will review the earlier instructions and issue further instructions to ensure the safety of records. The Commissioners have also been instructed that, when loss of records is detected, the responsibility should be fixed immediately and the person responsible for loss duly punished.

**IMPORT OF STEEL SHEETS FOR PRODUCTION OF BARRELS**

S.N.Q. No. 16. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has recommended to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals to issue licences to the Oil Companies to import directly steel sheets for the production of barrels and drums worth nearly Rs. 2.5 crores from foreign countries;

(b) whether the steel sheets imported by the Oil Companies previously could not be fully utilised by these companies and as such parts of it were sold by them in the market;

(c) whether the Oil Companies were debarred by an injunction issued by the Delhi High Court from getting direct allotment of steel sheets in preference to drum and barrel fabricators; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing the Oil Companies to import steel sheets from the foreign countries instead of purchasing the same from the Indian manufacturers?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) :**

(a) The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals approach Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals for the requirement of steel sheets for bitumen drums

only. That Ministry allocates foreign exchange after taking into account indigenous availability.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The oil refineries/companies are not debarred by the Order issued by Delhi High Court from getting direct allotment of bitumen drum sheets as they were importing this item before the aforesaid Court case. There was no indigenous availability of bitumen drum sheets before 1966-67 and the requirement was wholly met by import direct by the oil industry in the past.

With your permission, I would like to mention that a quantity of 3,000 tonnes bitumen sheets which was secured by IOC has not been utilised and the question of its disposal, in accordance with the regulations, is under examination.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Is it a fact that 1038 tonnes of 18 gauge sheets imported from Czechoslovakia by IOC in 1965 were found unnecessary and thus could not be utilised? May I also know whether 2,000 tonnes of 24 gauge steel sheets were imported from Poland and again found unnecessary and could not be utilised? Is it true that the Government of India incurred a loss of Rs. 9 lakhs in the one account and Rs. 25 lakhs in other in terms of foreign exchange? If so, have Government made any inquiry as to the reasons why such loss was incurred?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I would like to mention that a distinction has to be made in this connection between steel used for barrels and steel used for bitumen drums. So far as this Ministry is concerned, we advised the Steel Ministry only in regard to the allocation of steel required for bitumen drums. On that, I have already said that only IOC has not been able to utilise the 3,000 tonnes. To my information, other oil companies have been able to utilise this.

As regards the other steel required for barrels, that is a matter between the DGTD and the Steel Ministry.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Is it a fact that recently the oil companies have requested the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals to allow them to import 22,000 tonnes of 18 gauge steel sheets from foreign countries?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** Earlier, the allocation was being made not to the oil companies but to the private fabricators. I think on our recommendation that policy has been changed and now allocation is made to the oil companies. That is true. But a suit has been filed in this very regard. Reference has been made in the question itself to the order passed by the Delhi High Court and that relates to this very matter.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : ढाई करोड रुपयें की सिफारिश के बारे में (क) भाग में लिखा हुआ है। मंत्री महोदय न नहीं बताया है कि क्या ढाई करोड़ रुपयें के लाईसेंस के लिए सिफारिश की गई है या कम के लिए की गई है या ज्यादा के लिए की गई है ? कितने रकम के लाईसेंसों के लिए इन्होंने स्टील मिनिस्ट्री की सिफारिश की है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस किस कम्पनी के लिए कितनी कितनी रकम के लाईसेंसों के लिए सिफारिश की गई है ?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** As regards these bitumen drum sheets of which we are talking, Burmah-Shell and ESSO received for 1966-67 steel for 5,000 tonnes and 4,000 tonnes respectively from indigenous source. On the same basis, allocation from indigenous source for 1967-68 is being made. The balance requirement for 1967-68 is 31,000 tonnes. For this purpose the Ministry of Steel have approached the Ministry of Finance for the allocation of Rs. 2 crores worth foreign exchange, for the import of bitumen drum sheets during the second half of 1967-68. That includes the requirement of bitumen drum sheets.

**SHRI S. KUNDU :** May I know whether it is a fact that Government has given these private oil companies

permission to import this bitumen variety of steel to prepare drums, and those private companies after importing this steel are favouring certain factories and giving it to them as against others, and whether it is a fact that many industries are lying idle and closed down while this surplus stock has not been utilised?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** We have not received any complaint that they have been misusing this steel, but if the hon. member has any such information, we shall certainly look into it.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** Burmah-Shell, Esso and IOC are the three parties that are given the import licences to import bitumen steel sheets and it is in violation of the decision arrived at the inter-ministerial conference held in June, 1964, and these companies issue these bitumen sheets to the manufacturers who are their favourites. In the context of that, may I know why it is that the manufacturers themselves are not allowed to import bitumen sheets directly instead of relying on these oil companies for import, and secondly, why it is that you have yourself violated the decision of the inter-ministerial conference arrived at an inter-ministerial conference arrived at in June, 1964?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I am not at all aware that there has been any violation of any inter-ministerial conference resolution on this. To my best information, the allocation to the oil companies has been perfectly in order, and in accordance with the policy followed over a period of years, and we are not a party to any violation.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** That was not my question. My question was this. These three oil companies, Esso, Burmah-Shell and our IOC, are given permits to import bitumen steel sheets, and then they distribute to the manufacturers who are their favourites. I just wanted to know from the Minister why, instead of having these intermediaries, they should not allow the manufacturers to import the steel

sheets directly or Government themselves import through STC?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I have no information myself of allegations made against the private firms. Allegations can be made against anybody. Here, the whole object is to supply them with sheets so as to enable them to get drums at the time and in the quantity require, and if they are satisfied with the distribution, why should we quarrel with it?

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Why should it be given to the oil companies and not to the manufacturers of drums?

**MR. SPEAKER :** No, please.

**SHRI D. C. SHARMA :** May I know why Government is giving these oil companies this special treatment or favoured nation treatment as it is called. May I know they have been singled out for this kind of treatment, and whether any other companies also have been given this kind of special privilege or prerogative which they have been given?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** There is no question of any special privilege. Whoever produces bitumen and wants drum sheets for it, gets it. The Indian Oil Corporation, I myself said, have also got it. There is no question of special privilege for anybody.

श्री राम चरण : करीब ३५ लाख रुपये का नुक्सान १८ गेज और २४ गेज के स्टील शीट्स मंगाने पर हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस ने इनको इंडेंट किया था उस पर क्या आपने यह शर्त लगाई थी कि जो अनयूटिलाइज्ड शीट्स होंगे उन को गवर्नमेंट के थ्रू डिसपोज आफ किया जाएगा ?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** It has to be disposed of certainly, if there is surplus, in accordance with the regulations. As I said, the only party which has surplus drum sheets is the Indian Oil Corporation, and we are examining how to dispose of it in accordance with the regulations on the subject.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Why did you import then? Rs. 35 lakhs of foreign exchange have been wasted. (*Interruption*).

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I will explain.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He wants to answer. Hon. Member will please sit down.

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** We anticipated the production of bitumen in the Barauni refinery. But due to some defect in the vaccum column, the feed stock for this bitumen did not give the necessary specification product. Now, we are trying to rectify the defect in the vaccum column and also in the bitumen plant. Because we could not produce as we anticipated we could not utilise it, and we are considering how best to dispose it off according to the rules.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Anticipation may be done on one occasion, but for two successive occasions, you have been doing it and you lost. [*Interruption*].

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose.—

**MR. SPEAKER :** The hon. Minister will not answer. What is this?

**SHRI S. KUNDU :** Mr. Ram Charan asked a specific question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Let me hear Mr. Ram Charan.

श्री राम चरण : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब किसी चीज के लिए इनडेंट किया जाता है, तो रूलज में यह व्यवस्था की जाती है कि अगर उस चीज का उपयोग पूर्व-निश्चित काम के लिए नहीं किया जायेगा, तो सरकार उस को कानफिस्कट कर सकती है, पिनेस्टी इम्पोज कर सकती है, तो क्या इस मामले में ऐसा किया गया था ; यदि हाँ तो उस के अनुसार कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं की गई।

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** The import licences, whether given to the Indian Oil Company or to any other private company, are subject to the

same terms and conditions, and there is no speciality about it. In this case, actually, we have been advised and we are examining that "to approach the licensing authority for the sale of this in accordance with the import trade regulations and in consultation with the Iron and Steel Controller." There is nothing wrong in that.

**SHRI KARTIK ORAON :** When import licence is issued, indigenous clearance is obtained from the Government. That means, import licences would not be normally granted if indigenous materials are available. I would like to know from the Government whether such an indigenous clearance was obtained from the Government.

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** Yes, Sir. We never import except when indigenous capacity is not available. The available indigenous capacity of this sheet is 9,000 tons per annum. The balance of our requirements is of the order of 31,000 tons.

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** There is hardly a time when a large number of small-scale and medium industries are meted out fair treatment by the bigger companies. A very correct fact has been stated, that though licences have been issued to oil companies. I do not grudge it and I do not want to go into it—the fact remains that these oil companies have been showing partial treatment to certain firms to whom they have given all the steel output, whereas a large number of small scale and medium factories with a capacity to manufacture barrels and drums are lying closed down or are working with under-sufficiency or under-capacity. May I know from the Government whether this Ministry which recommended licences to the oil companies will also recommend to those oil companies, or if need be, make it imperative on them, that the steel should be distributed evenly to other small-scale industries in these regions, so that no factory remains closed or works under a substantial under-capacity?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** This is a suggestion, but I would like to say that the primary consideration, whether in the case of the Indian Oil Company or any other company, must be that they should be able to secure the drums in time for marketing their product. Subject to this, if there is any suggestion, we will certainly look into it.

**SHRI HIMATSINGKA :** I would like to know whether this allocation to the oil companies is not acting very prejudicially to the manufacturers of drums who had been converting them into drums and who are totally deprived of the supply by the oil companies, and will the Government take that into consideration and allot steel to those manufacturers also?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** How can it be, Sir? There is still steel meant for drums for marketing the bitument product. Naturally, it must be left to them to order on whom they like so that the order is carried out within time and the quantity is supplied to the specification required.

**SHRI RANGA :** He was only anxious to know whether care would be taken to see that there is proper distribution as between the various manufacturers of drums, so that the smaller people may not suffer.

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I have already said that subject to the primary requirements of the drums being supplied in time and of the required quality, any suggestion like this would certainly be gone into.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** It has come to notice that these companies have been selling these imported sheets in black-market and several cases have been detected in Mysore where there is a big racket going on. May I know whether this Government is going to appoint an inquiry committee to go into this and find out how far these imported sheets have been sold in the black-market?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I shall be grateful if he gives me such information as he has to support his allegation.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** It is for the Government to find out whether these sheets have been sold in black-market and who has been dealing in these things. The oil companies are responsible for these things. They are making a big profit. Why should the Government not have an inquiry committee to go into this?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I am not aware of any such allegation. If there is any such complaint, I welcome the hon. member to give me the information.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** When there is so much of allegation, may I know whether Government is going to take any measures for the proper utilisation and distribution of these steel sheets which are being imported?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** What is the allegation, I do not understand. Just now an hon. member said that there is some black-market. I said, please give me the information and we would look into it.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** The allegation is specific. We allege that in the matter of distribution by these oil companies, they show favour to certain manufacturers.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has answered it already. He said, if there is any specific complaint, the information may be passed on to him.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** Do you agree with the allegation, Sir?

**MR. SPEAKER :** How do I know? I do not know.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : क्या यह सच है कि जिन शीट्स से ड्रम बनते हैं, जब उन के उत्पादन के लक्ष्य निर्धारित किये जा रहे थे, तब पैट्रोलियम मिनिसट्री ने अपनी

जल्दतर कम बताई और जब वे कम बनने लगे, तब आवश्यकता ज्यादा बताई, जिस की वजह से हम को अब बाहर से मंगाना पड़ रहा है और देश में उस का उत्पादन नहीं हो पाया ?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** Whenever we make any recommendation as to the quantum of allocation, it is always on the basis of a proper appreciation of the demand and requirements.

**SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA :** Is it a fact that the demand for 18 gauge sheets was met from local manufacturers in 1966-67? Is it also a fact that the position will become easier after the production of these sheets at the Rourkela plant after expansion? In view of this position, does the minister think that he will permit the import of 18 gauge sheets by the oil companies?

**SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH :** I have already explained that a distinction has to be made between the drum sheet and 18 gauge sheets, which the hon. member has referred to. The Delhi High Court's decision refers to 18 gauge sheets and to its distribution.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### WOOLLEN PRODUCTS FOR DEFENCE SERVICES

\*813. **SHRI MADHU LIMAYE :** Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that after the cessation of hostilities, tenders were invited, as usual, for procuring woollen products for defence services;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in fixing the prices the factors that before the Chinese aggression manufacturers purchased raw material on their own at a premium of anything upto 300 per cent and that after the Emergency the raw material was allowed by Government to be imported at negotiated prices were taken into consideration; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?