

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Wer we cheapest or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not allow it. I cannot force him to reply. Please sit down.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि करार नहीं हो पाया और रूसी व्यापार-मंडल यातचीत करने के बाद वापिस गया है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि रूस वैननों की जो कीमत दे रहा है वह हमारे लागत-खर्च को पूरा करने के लिए काफी नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस स्थिति में यह बातचीत किस आधार पर आगे चल रही है। रूस के द्वारा वैनन का जो दाम दिया जा रहा है और जो हमारी लागत-कीमत है उनमें क्या अन्तर है ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is not customary to give in advance our price. In trade practice, it is never done. I am not in a position to disclose our price. Certainly when an agreement is concluded and when we come before the House, we will give it.

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री : रूस ने हम में आठ पट्टियों के वैनन मांगे हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय की जानकारी में है कि क्या रूस में आठ पट्टियों का रेलवे का ट्रैक भी है या नहीं और कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि रूस हम से वैनन खरीद कर उन्हें किसी दूसरे देश को मुनाफे पर देना चाहता है ? जब हर एक चीज की कीमत एक-एक मिनट में ऊपर जा रही है, तो पांच या सात साल का ठेका या सौदा करना कहां तक भारत के हित में होगा।

श्री ब० रा० भगत : रूस अपनी माइबे-रियन रेलवे के अन्तर्गत जो नई रेलवे लाइन बना रहा है, ये वैनन वह उसके लिए चाहता है। उसने अपनी जरूरत के मुताबिक यह स्पेशिफिकेशन दिया है। उसने किमी दूरे देश को बेचने के लिए ये वैनन नहीं मांगे हैं। जब भी हम कोई लांग-टर्म एग्जीमेंट करते हैं, तो उसमें

आगे चल कर दामों के बढ़ने या घटने का पूरा विशार किया जाता है।

SHRI SWELL : I would like to know how many wagons, our wagon industry is currently producing every year, whether they are able to meet our internal requirement and whether it is a fact that orders are pouring in from other countries, such as from South Korea, Burma, Ceylon, East Africa and East Germany, and they are offering better prices; if so, whether it is worth while to continue with this deal with Russia.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am not in a position to say as to how many wagons are being produced. That will be for my colleague, the Minister of Industrial Development, to say. But there is good capacity in the country for meeting the internal demand as well as the large international demand. Already, we are exporting wagons to Burma, South Korea, Kenya, Hungary and Iran; also, another contract with Sudan and Poland has been entered into.

Working of Coffee Board in India

*64. SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment into the working of the Coffee Board in India during the last 3 years ;

(b) if so, the nature of the irregularities found ; and

(c) the action taken to improve the working of the Board.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) . (a) No, Sir, the Coffee Board is a statutorily constituted authority and has been entrusted with the day to day working by the Rules made under the Coffee Act.

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

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : I am putting a very plain, self-contained and straight question and it will not require much intelligence on the part of the Minister to reply to it also.

The Coffee Board, like other institutions

and boards, has a peculiar and lamentable feature. They always indulge in wasteful expenditure. To point out an instance, when the AICC meeting was held at Bangalore the Coffee Board supplied free sandwiches and coffee to the members of the Congress Party at the meeting. I can understand Congressmen having free coffee because we are told that the funds collected by their leaders are not accounted for... (Interruption). I want to know whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Coffee Board is taking political sides and is indulging in wasteful practices like supplying free coffee and sandwiches to members of the Congress Party.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : This question has been answered separately as an unstarred question.

MR. SPEAKER : You must ask, which Congress Party.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Syndicate Congress. It was supplied in Bangalore. It has appeared in the press and the Board has been censored. Why is the Minister shirking it ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I have not yet answered it.

As I said, this question has been answered in reply to an unstarred question but I may add that under the Coffee Board Act itself there are two aspects, the commercial aspect as well as the promotional aspect, before the Coffee Board. The Coffee Board does incur certain expenditure for promotion of coffee... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. You must listen.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : A large gathering takes place including not only members of the Congress party but also journalists and others. It is not only on this occasion but there are many occasions like that... (Interruptions)

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Don't bring in journalists here. Because they cannot protest, you are blaming them. Don't name them here.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is not only in a Congress session but on other occasions also, social and others, the Coffee Board makes an arrangement.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : The Minister is taking shelter-under the plea that it is a statutory Board. The Government of India must have some hold on it, some power to give them a directive. On the one side, this sort of wasteful expenditure is going on and on the other side, the employees of the Coffee Board have been agitating for the payment of bonus. May I know whether they have made any representation to the Government of India to direct the Coffee Board to consider their case sympathetically and to meet their legitimate claims ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : So far as the question of the bonus of the employees is concerned, that has been accepted. I am one with the hon. Member that whatever power the Act gives to the Government of India should be exercised so that wasteful expenditure does not take place. Whenever any such matter has been brought to our notice, we have taken action. But, as I said, it is a statutory body. The Parliament does not give us any power to run day-to-day affairs of the Board.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : प्रबल महोदय, श्री मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि कांग्रेस पार्टी को जो काफी पिलाई गई वह उनके उद्देश्य का एक हिस्सा है—प्रमोशनल। तो मैं वह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने किसी और राजनैतिक पार्टी के अधिवेशन में भी मुझ काफी पिलाई है और पिलाई है तो किस पार्टी में पिलाई है ? अन्यथा क्या यह पोलिटिकल करप्शन नहीं है और मिस्यूस आफ पावर नहीं है।

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I will collect all that information. But I am told in the last Dussehra celebrations also they made similar arrangements. There were other occasions also.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : I wanted to know about political parties. Is it not corruption ? My question related only to the political parties. I am not concerned

with Dussehra celebrations or other occasions. You tell me about the political parties.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I will find out.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I want to know whether the Government have made any assessment into the working of the Coffee Board. Recently, the Coffee Board supplied sandwiches and coffee free worth Rs. 45,000 to the A.I.C.C. session held in Bangalore .. (Interruptions).

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : No, no.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : The Minister said that it is only a promotional activity. May I know whether the Government will accept the principle of giving a directive to the Coffee Board to help other political parties also to have their conferences and supply coffee free in these conferences ? (Interruptions).

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am told the money spent over that occasion was about Rs. 9000 and not Rs. 45,000 as the hon. Member said. (Interruptions.)

श्री रवि राय यह 9 हजार भी बहुत ज्यादा है भग्न साहब ।

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : Ours is a poor country ; you cannot justify even this much amount.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I have not made any comment. I have only corrected the hon. Member. Since this question has been noised, I am prepared to consider whether the Coffee Board should make arrangements at political meetings in future.

Supply of Railway Wagons, Coaches and Equipment to Sudanese Government

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- *65. **SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI :**
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI R. BARUA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Sudan have recently placed an order for

the supply by India of various kinds of railway wagons, coaches and equipment ; and

(b) if so, the details of the order placed together with the terms and conditions on which the order has been accepted ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 120 covered wagons, 43 coaching underframes and 3000 automatic couplers on usual terms and conditions.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : What are the 'usual terms and conditions' ?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Is this the way that the House should be treated ? There is a specific question as to what are the terms and conditions. Is this the answer to be given to that ?

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : He must have explained the terms and conditions.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : They are matters of detail. In supplementaries they can ask about those.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : When you do not answer the main question, what will you reply to supplementaries ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Covered wagons 120—price Rs. 75 lakhs approximately ; coaching underframes 43—price Rs. 5 lakhs ; automatic couplers 100—price Rs. 2 lakhs ; automatic couplers of different varieties 2,900 price Rs. 33 lakhs. The payment is to be made in free foreign exchange and the letter of credit is to be opened. Transaction for about a crore of rupees between the STC and the Government of Sudan is to be financed by the World Bank credit, and the contract was secured through tenders.

If these details are provided, the answer would be very long and that is why it was not done.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : A statement could have been attached.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : The Minister of Communications of Sudan.