

in spite of the allegations made against him on the floor of this House? Is it not an instance of by-passing Parliament? Then, he has not yet submitted his report. At first he said he will submit the report within a week; then he said "within a few weeks". Even now those "few weeks" are not over.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I find from the records that Mr. Rao, who was the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, was appointed to enquire into the whole matter, and I take it that the Government appointed a man of integrity as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner. I do not know whether his character was criticised in this Parliament or not, but he was appointed to this post because he was the Chief Vigilance Commissioner. Sir, I can assure the House through you that I am not here to defend anybody who has done anything wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think we should stop here now.

SHRI HEM BARUA: Shri A. K. Roy's name was dropped because of criticism in Parliament. Allegations have been made against Shri Rao also on the floor of the House by Shri Kamath. Yet, he was appointed. Why do you adopt double standards in the case of two men?

SHRI S. KUNDU: May I know whether after this Rao Enquiry Committee was set up some of the officers who are directly and indirectly connected with this matter have resigned and gone and the concerned contractors have already wound up their business?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I do not think they have resigned.

MR. SPEAKER: This question has gone a little beyond the scope, mostly because of questions arising out of your own replies. I am very helpless in that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of an Alkaloid Plant at Neemuch for Processing Opium

*722. **SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH:** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to set up an Alkaloid Plant at Neemuch to process opium and the foundation stone for the factory was laid four years ago;

(b) whether no progress has been made so far in implementing the above scheme;

(c) whether in the absence of processing facilities India exports opium exclusively in the raw form, though it is more profitable to export processed opium which has a good export demand; and

(d) if the answers to above parts be in the affirmative the reasons for slow progress of the Neemuch Scheme and the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir. The foundation stone was laid on the 12th November, 1966.

(b) Although the actual construction has yet to be started, the plant designs have already been approved and necessary arrangements finalised for the appointment of consultants and other agencies for the execution of the work on a top priority.

(c) Only raw opium is being exported at present. By "processed opium" the Hon'ble Member presumably means "opium alkaloids" the manufacture of which is a highly technical operation. The question of developing export markets for Indian alkaloids will be considered after the new project comes into operation.

(d) The slow progress was attributable chiefly to the need for conducting further tests to establish the commercial feasibility of the laboratory process and the subsequent decision to enlarge the scope of the project to cover finished alkaloids. With the completion of these investigations, no further delay is anticipated in the commencement of the construction work.

Trade Arrangements with Yugoslavia after 1972

*726. **SHRI SAMINATHAN:** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Yugoslavia Business Delegation visited India and pre-