

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 15, 1970 | *Agrahayana*
24, 1892 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Consortium for Paper Making Machinery

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*721. SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is considering a proposal to set up a consortium in the Public Sector for paper making machinery ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which the final decision will be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c). The steps to be taken to ensure that the plant and machinery, needed to achieve the target laid down for pulp and

paper production in the Fourth Plan, is manufactured within the country to the maximum extent possible and supplied on schedule, are being examined by Government. Government are of the view that the available manufacturing resources in the Public and Private sectors should be harnessed in a co-ordinated manner to maximise production of paper plant and machinery. Various approaches are being explored in this regard. One such approach that is being examined, which has been referred to as a "Consortium approach", envisages an arrangement whereunder orders for paper plant and machinery will be received by a single agency which will arrange to have the orders executed through maximum utilisation of the available manufacturing facilities in specified public and private sector enterprises who are willing to participate in such an arrangement. Discussions are in progress with interested public and private sector enterprises on the subject and no decision has yet been taken.

SHRI N. R. LASKAR : It is clear from the statement that nothing has been done so far in regard to the manufacture of plant and machinery for pulp and paper making in the country. In the Fourth Five-Year Plan they are going to establish certain paper and pulp making plant in the country. What amount of foreign exchange will be necessary to bring this machinery from the foreign countries and what efforts are Government making to manufacture these things in the country to save foreign exchange ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : It is only because we want to take more concrete steps in order to manufacture the machinery required for the paper industry that this consortium is tried to be formed. We have to invest about

Rs. 180 crores in machinery in order to meet the additional demands in 1973-74. Out of this we will have to spend about 30 per cent in foreign exchange and the rest will be met from the country. The efforts are to see that the entire machinery is produced indigenously.

SHRI N. R. LASKAR : I would like to know what at the moment is the foreign exchange component for importing this machinery.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : I have said that the foreign components would be to the extent of 30 per cent ; in some cases even more. So far as concerns, which are manufacturing paper plants in the country, are concerned, they are doing machinery required for plants which would take in 50 tonnes and less. Our aim is to see that the economic size is 150 tonnes for the plant. Therefore, to manufacture 150-tonne per day capacity plants, in the initial stages the foreign exchange requirement will be a little higher.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : Apart from the paper making machinery, certain machinery is needed for purifying the effluents so that water from the effluents can be properly used. Is there any proposal to manufacture machinery for the purification of these effluents, like Tomlinson's plant, which purifies the effluents ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : I will collect the information and give to the hon. Member.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : अध्यक्ष महादय, कागज की भारी कमी को देखते हुए अगर हम कागज में सेल्फ सफिकिएट हो जाएं तो उसका एक हिस्सा हम एक्सपोर्ट भी कर सकेंगे तो उसके लिए जितनी मशीनरी की हमको जरूरत होगी यह कंसोर्टियम उस सारी मशीनरी को मैन्युफैक्चर कर सकेगा और इम्पोर्ट नहीं करना पड़ेगा तो इसमें उसका पूरा ध्यान क्या सरकार रख रही है ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Even at present, when we are not having all the machinery required, we have entered into export market

to the extent of Rs. 6.2 crores. We are exporting paper to other countries.....

SHRI MAHARAJ SINGH BHARATI :
How much paper are you importing ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : For the newsprint, we are importing paper. For the rest of the things, we are meeting requirements from indigenous sources.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : Whenever a consortium approach is made use of, the Indian industry generally suffers from two major drawbacks. One is the high prices charged by the manufacturers of Indian capital equipment with very poor warranties that are not enforceable and the second is that, comparatively, obsolete designs get standardised in this kind of things. For instance, in respect of the Indian paper and pulp industry, the Government is trying to standardise the manufacture at the rate of 60 tonnes per day of capital equipment while in foreign countries the existing range is about 200 tonnes a day with the result that there is a permanent incapability in our country to manufacture paper at economic prices. In view of these two major drawbacks, may I know whether the Government of India will set firm guide-lines for this Consortium to look after the problems that arise from time to time ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The hon. Member need not have any apprehension about the Consortium because in this Consortium we are taking the help of all those concerns which have been established in the public sector. We would also welcome the private sector concerns to associate themselves in this Consortium. But at present we have not yet been able to decide the pattern of its functioning, etc. The hon. Member is perhaps right in saying that in other countries 200 tonnes a day is the capacity. Here, we are thinking of having 150 tonnes a day. That is a right step in the right direction.

SHRI HEM BARUA : In view of the fact that there is an acute shortage of white printing paper in this country that might affect the production of text-books, may I know whether this Consortium will help in the pro-

duction of white printing paper and, secondly, in view of the fact that there is a private sector in paper industry which is playing well with the finances, what are the steps that the Government propose to take to see that the things are set right?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : About the shortage of white paper, that has been felt and even during the time when the schools and colleges were re-opened, the shortage was very badly felt. To meet that shortage, the existing factories have been asked to change their pattern and by that they have increased production by about 15,000 tonnes, and that has eased the situation. This Consortium is mainly to find out to what extent we can utilise the existing capacity in the factories for the manufacture of plant and machinery required for paper industry.

Co-relation between Central Government and Delhi Administration regarding Social Welfare Measures

*723. **SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state the steps which have been taken to co-relate the social welfare measures of the Central Government and Delhi Administration in the Union Territory of Delhi and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : There is close co-ordination between the Central Department of Social Welfare and the Delhi Administration. The activities of the two are separate and there is a clear demarcation between the two.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Is it a fact that social welfare is a transferred subject and the Delhi Administration in this regard is on the same footing as other State Governments?

Is it also a fact that in response to a proposal of the Government of India, Department of Social Welfare, the Delhi Administration agreed in February 1967 to take over the Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Directorate,

New Delhi under its administrative control subject to the condition that additional funds for running the Directorate and its ancillary organizations would be made available to the Administration?

Is it also a fact that in the meeting between the Minister in charge of Social Welfare, Delhi Administration and the Minister in charge of Social Welfare, Central Government, held in December and also in 1968 and also this year, they discussed many of the schemes that are being run by the Central Social Welfare Directorate and agreed that they should be transferred to the Delhi Administration? If it is a fact, may I know why these institutions have not so far been transferred to the Delhi Administration and why the Central Government is putting its foot in this regard unnecessarily?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO : A demand was made by the Delhi Administration for the transfer of the Central Social Welfare institutions in Delhi to them and there was also a discussion held between the Delhi Administration officers and the Central Department officers in 1968 but, unfortunately, a decision has not been taken. I will see that an early decision is taken in the matter.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Is it a fact that recently a scheme has been drawn up for distribution of cheap milk and food to the indigent people and that all State Governments have been given some grants and the Delhi Administration has also opened distribution centres and is also giving grants to voluntary organizations. May I know why in view of the fact that the Delhi Administration is doing this job, the Central Government also continues to give grants to voluntary organizations and is starting its own distribution centre and has started a new centre in the Kingsway Camp which was inaugurated by the Central Minister of Social Welfare over the head of the Delhi Administration only a few days ago?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is about the co-relation of the social welfare activities.

SHRI JAGANATH RAO : The crash programme is run by the State Governments and