

there any lacuna in their cases? It is the policy of the Government to grant L.T.C. at the earliest and provide facilities for travel.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Regarding the settlement of accounts of 790 employees, mostly these employees have taken the tours. They have submitted their accounts. These are in the process of settlement, because generally they get one month time to submit the final account.

As regards the 20 employees, the total amount is Rs. 25,693/- This will be recovered from their salaries, since they have not undertaken the trip, after drawing the money.

As regards irregularities, no such case has come to our notice; and we have no such case, to our knowledge.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that recovery is being made in 20 cases. In this connection, I want to know as to why is not the recovery being made in lump sum in stead of recovering it in instalments?

Secondly, I had put a question in regard to Leave Travel Concession. The hon. Minister has informed me about the facilities provided for home-town journeys and for journeys to any part of India. Have the Government made any categorisation by which the people who want to go to their home towns would get more facilities and swifter settlement of claims as compared to those who want to undertake journeys to any part of the country or do both fall under the same category? If it is so, will you kindly put them under different categories because need to visit the home town is more urgent. Hence, more facilities should be provided for it and as regards visiting any part of India, it is a matter of recreation which is not urgent. Hence, will the Government of India frame a rule by which the facilities provided for

going to home town will be different from those provided for visiting any part of India?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The existing rules provide facilities to go either to the home town, or to any part of the country. It is the discretion of the person who enjoys it. He can go to his home town once in two years, which is considered to be the block year. If he wants to go to any place in the country, he can also do it in the course of a four year block. It is upto him.

Now about the question of recovery. Under the rules applicable to Central Government employees, if an employee has taken other loans such as house building loans or loans for medical purposes etc. We cannot recover amounts which come to more than one-third of his salary. So, there is a difficulty. Keeping this in view, deductions are made from the salary, seeing to it that the existing rules are not violated. As a result, from such employees who have taken other loans, we cannot recover the full amount at a time. Otherwise, his pay packet will become so small that it will be difficult for him to pull on. This is the main difficulty.

Vegetable Processing Plant in Haryana

*371. **DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :**
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 428 on 15 April 1985 regarding vegetable processing plant in Haryana and state :

(a) whether the Modern Food Industries (India) Limited has cleared the feasibility report for fruit and vegetable processing plant ;

(b) whether the land for the plant has been acquired ;

(c) if so, the time by which the said plant will start functioning ; and

(d) the reasons for delay in setting up this plant ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) (a) The company has considered the project report and come to the conclusion that it is not feasible.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

DR CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : The hon Minister is undoubtedly relevant, well-learned and highly capable. I was confident that no official could mislead him or misinform him.

The moment I read the reply given by the hon. Minister, I was greatly surprised to see how the facts have been concealed. I would like to quote the reply given by the hon; Minister to question No. 428 in April 1985 on the floor of this august House.

While replying to question No. 428 in April 1985, the Minister had very clearly said that the techno-economic feasibility report for a Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant proposed to be set up by Modern Food Industries India) Ltd. in Gurgaon district in Haryana had been finalized. The estimated capital cost to be incurred, it was said, was Rs. 151.6 lakhs. While replying to the question regarding delay in finalizing the project, the Minister said that it was to be reviewed from time to time. Therefore, it took a lot of time.

Now, in this reply, the hon. Minister has clearly refused that it was not found feasible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It may be now.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Now what are the points on which at present it was found not feasible ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : The operative part of the question which the hon. member has asked lastly is very relevant. I needs an answer and therefore

I propose to give him an answer. It is not correct to say that officers have succeeded in misleading me or anything ; it is true that I do not consider the feasibility report myself nor do I prepare it; it is the Board of Directors of the company who do it. It is not correct to say that they have succeeded in misleading me. After going through their reasons which are with me, I have given this answer. But this is a fact at one time they had prepared the feasibility report and so on. But, finally they considered and they found that for various reasons this unit would not be economical, and therefore, they gave up this proposal. Now the hon. member wants to know thereasons. Their project report is also with me which they had prepared at one time. If I compare from that I find that originally they had got 65 per cent capacity utilization or 65 per cent utilization was necessary for the project to break even. Generally in fruit and vegetable processing industry, the capacity utilisation ranges from 36-38 per cent. Therefore, the minimum capacity utilisation envisaged in the project report even to achieve the breakeven point was considered unrealistic. The second point is that Haryana Agro Industries Corporation a State Government undertaking have a plant at Murthal (Sonapat). This plant was set up at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs in 1975 and has the capacity to manufacture tomato ketchup (7 tonnes per day) jump, jellies etc. (2000 bottles per day) and fruit-based beverages (36000 bottles per day. As against this capacity, production during 1985 and 1986 was 411.78 tonnes and 328.38 tonnes respectively which is well below 25 per cent of the project which is already existing. While considering the feasibility earlier, it was thought that 65 per cent capacity utilization with that was not possible. Then, tomato paste figures prominently in the product-mix envisaged in the revised project report. A production of 468 tonnes of tomato paste per annum has been assumed on the basis that it would be possible to market that much to institutional buyers like hotels, railways, airlines industrial canteens and industrial units making tomato ketchup juice etc. However keeping in view the experience of the existing units, this assumption was considered unrealistic. For example, there is another unit in Bihar also where

the same position was found. Another important item in the product mix of the revised project report is guava pulp. It generally has not been found to be popular. Then the main thing is the tomatoes. For a production of 468 tonnes tomato paste per annum envisaged in the project report 3,600 tonnes of fresh tomatoes would be required. The assumption that this much quantity would be available from Gurgaon, Sonapat and other neighbouring areas at reasonable rates is considered unrealistic keeping in view their closeness to Delhi which affords a good market for fresh tomatoes and in fact actually draws on substantial quantities from the neighbouring areas.

The procurement price assumed for tomatoes is 60 paise per kg. which seems doubtful keeping in view the prevailing market prices.

Therefore, considering all these things, the company thought that it would not serve any useful purpose and it would not be economical. On these substantial grounds, they said that the project was not feasible.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : How many agro-based industries at present are functioning in the country? What is the feasibility of those industries?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I must frankly confess that today I have confined my preparation to this project alone. I won't be able to tell him at the moment how many of them are there. But in a broad manner, I can tell him that the percentage utilisation is very low. My Ministry does not deal with all agro-based industries. My Ministry deals with vegetable and fruit and product. There the capacity percentage is already low. The Government is keen and certain concessions in MODVAT etc., have been given recently and export in certain cases which have been de-licensed, the Government does not want to enter this field. But these facts and figures as he wants to know are not with me at the moment.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : My Question No. 374 is also on Agro-based Industries.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You should have mentioned as soon as this question was taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, was the feasibility report of this plant received recently or some years ago, in which it was stated that the plant was not feasible? I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it would be reconsidered? Along with it I also want to know whether any survey has been conducted in order to find out the places where fruit and vegetable processing plants could be installed?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has not made a survey of such places and whether such plants can be set up in the Government sector or should be set up in every place, the Government has not taken any such decision. As regards reconsideration of the plant project, it will be difficult to do so under the present circumstances. Let the hon. member approach me, make me understand, convince me in this regard. Then I may have no objection to his suggestion.

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is more than evident from the detailed reply of the Minister that tomato is the real mischief maker in this Haryana case because the price is between Rs. 3 and 5 there, not even breaking, I know it. The price of tomato is Rs. 1/- per kilogramme or less than one rupee in Bhagalpur where a plant has already been completed, is ready for operation, while the ketchup plant has not been given, this plant is lying waste for the last two years and at silchar where the plant will come up after years the factory has been given. Why this discrepancy in this case? I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if his Department could tell us the reason.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I will certainly look into it. I know that this plant was set up at Bhagalpur some years ago. I would not like to give any off hand reply to a very knowledgeable

Member who was himself a Minister in this Department. I would not give him off hand information. I will find out

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I do not claim more knowledge than the Minister but not less than him.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : You are a knowledgeable person. I know it. Certainly. This is my view.

I have been told that at the Bhagalpur plant, about 100 tonnes of tomatoes have been processed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This parity is welcome.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : And this parity in between also.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : So far as this project is concerned, I welcome the hon. Member, I am prepared to sit and discuss with me.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I welcome this offer of sitting with him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Do not take away Haryana.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I agree with the hon. Minister's reply about the feasibility report. But I would like to know, whether, when this feasibility report was prepared and the officials studied the facts, and later when they considered that it was not possible, has any action been taken against those officers, who said first it was feasible and later that it was not economical? What action has the Minister taken?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I have not taken any action, nor do I contemplate taking any action on the ground if certain officers prepare a feasibility report at one time and consider it feasible and after some time they come to a conclusion that it is not feasible. Let me make it clear that neither any officer is nor the Ministry are — biased against this project. If we start taking action against officers, then it will discourage. *(Interruption)*

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : You have not understood.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : It has happened that sometimes we had prepared a project at a certain estimated cost and later on for various reasons the cost has gone up. The point is that when the final report was prepared the conclusion was that this was not economically feasible. Now, for that should I punish them? No.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly state whether in Maharashtra also.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No Maharashtra.

(Interruption)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Both are in India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Both are in India but he has already stated that he has prepared for Haryana only.

[Translation]

SHRI D. P. YADAVA : Will the hon. Minister kindly state as to what are the prevailing rates of tomatoes in Bhagalpur, Santhal Pargana etc. *(Interruptions)* and what is the rate in Delhi and in its neighbourhood? You have made provisions for installing a plant there. *(Interruption)*

[English]

This is a very important issue. In view of the fact that the potentiality of processing vegetables and fruits in that area is immense, will the Minister take initiative in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not relevant next question.

Setting up of Bottling Plants by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

*372. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :