

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : This aspect is always kept in view when the entire system is brought into operation.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : I want to know this from the Minister, if there are more than 4 lakhs of trucks on road, how could you fix up only 1000 trucks for the national permits system ? If this figure is meagre, is the Government going to increase the figure so that a large number of trucks will be on the road and also the traffic congestion is removed ? This will also help the trader and consumer for providing door-to-door service.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may inform the hon. Member that this will have to be only compartmentalised. There will be no reduction in the transport that is entrusted within the State itself. That will not be affected by this. But we have fixed the number of interstate permits. Fifty per cent of these permits will go to those operators who are already working on a bilateral system or within the five zones already fixed. And so far as the existing arrangements within the zone are concerned, they will have their existence as before. But for inter-State purposes, 50 per cent will go only to those who want to expand it. But in the case of the multi-zonal system, 25 per cent will go to those who are within the State and 25 per cent to those who are ex-Army officers and others—outsiders.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister if the Centre will issue directive to the States that the permits are first to be operated upon by the Government Undertakings and where the Undertakings show their inability to operate upon those permits, only then the permits will go to the individuals and the companies.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Sir, as you will see, the question poses a little predicament. I am not in a position to answer it. But we will regulate in such a way that individuals who have more than 3 will not have any more permit and they will have to surrender the surplus, and

the companies which have more than 7 will have to surrender those above it. Of course, the choice of surrender will be left to them, as to which one to surrender and which one not to surrender. But it will not affect the Public Undertakings.

† 100. [*The Questioners (Sarvasutri Sardar Amjad Ali, Dr. V. B. Singh and Harsh Deo Malaviya) were absent. For answer vide Cols. 32 infra.*]

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Closure of Indian Linolium Ltd.

*102. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB
BURMAN:

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

have declared closure in Indian Linolium Ltd. and have thrown out workers with the help of police and other anti-social the help of police and other anti-social elements; and

(b) whether any action has been taken to lift the closure ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere. According to available information, the management are reported to have declared lockout from November 11, 1975. The number of workers affected is about 750. The Central Industrial Relations Machinery has no information about the reported closure as such or about the alleged throwing out of workers with the help of police and anti-social elements. The matter in any case has been brought by the Ministry of Labour to the attention of the Government of West Bengal.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Chandra Deb Burman.

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DIB BUR-MAN : Sir, may I know whether, during the continuance of the emergency, Government thinks that such closures are anti-social and anti-State activities, and whether Government wants to take any action against the management and the owner of this company so that these closures may not be taking place ?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, I have already given the information we have got. We have brought it to the notice of the West Bengal Government. And, as I told you, the West Bengal Government is attending to this matter.

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BUR-MAN : Does the Government intend to undertake any legislation so that closures may not take place during the continuance of the emergency ? Does the Government intend to make a law to prevent closure or to prevent lay-off ?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I have answered this question previously that the Government is contemplating this. Various measures are under consideration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, he has repeated the same answer he gave earlier. We read in the newspapers that Mr. K. K. Birla has pledged his loyalty to the implementation of the 20-point programme. It has appeared in the newspapers that he has given such assurance. May I know whether the Government has found out in how many places they are indulging in lay-off, lock-out and closure of mills, etc., and whether the Government has advised the concerned authorities ? The Birla people should be called and told what that pledge means as far as they are concerned; and they should be told to do certain things and not to do certain things, also with a threat that should they fail to carry out the implementation of their pledge solemnly, the MISA will be awaiting them.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, I do not have the information whether

this concern, the Indian Linolium Limited, is managed by Shri K. K. Birla or any other Birla. There are a number of them. Therefore, I am not in a position to state who is exactly in charge of management of this company. The only fact is that there is closure—whether this has been closure or lock-out is a matter to be considered by the West Bengal Government. There is some problem arising out of this company. We have drawn the attention of the West Bengal Government to this. West Bengal Government, being the appropriate Government, are seized of the matter, and I presume they are taking necessary action.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, which part you have enjoyed ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I enjoyed both sides.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, no. You did not. You solemnly, very quietly heard my thing as you always do. When he replied, you seemed somewhat humoured. Do you think it is a joke ? I think the answer is the biggest joke. All I ask is this : Why not start with the Birlas, force them to implement this thing, the 20-point programme, in their empire of exploitation and plunder ? And that would be a better demonstration of the *bona fides* of the Government and the *mala fides* of the Birlas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Overseas trading by Indian Shipping

"93. SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD AH : DR.
V. B. SINGH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of India's overseas trade carried by the Indian shipping ; and