

not being properly maintained, the directors of the company were divided, the extreme step of taking over the company and appointing a Receiver Was taken by the Income-tax authorities.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already said that.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : What was the role of the Government Directors?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : As far as Belapur is concerned, I have gone through the facts and I do not have any fact to indicate that the Government directors did not do their job within their own responsibilities. He has also brought in the question of Maruti. Sir, some hon. Members must bring certain things because they cannot prove a particular thing they must bring some sort of a political issue.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Sir, on a point of order.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : You have had your say.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Sir, on a point of order.

This statement of the Minister is not true because did not bring in the name of Maruti from anywhere else. Sir, the journals report as referred to in the question itself indicates that there is a connection between him and Maruti.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : We have gone through the list of shareholders of Maruti Ltd. Shri G. D. Morarka or his associates are not the shareholders of Maruti. Therefore the very premise on which the hon. Member wants to base his new allegation is false. There is no question of his making a promise of payment of Rs. 5 lakhs in September or Rs. 5 lakhs in October. The fallacy and the incorrect reporting can be proved by this fact that Shri G. D. Morarka personally owes only Rs.

7,222 and not Rs. 5 lakhs or so as indicated by the hon. Member.

*532. [The questioners {Shri Lokanath Misra, Shri Debananda Amat, Shri Sanda Narayanappa} were absent. For answer, vide Cols. 35-40 infra.]

*533. [The questioner (Shri J. P. Yadav) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 41-42 infra.]

Expenditure on Customs Department

*534. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA: MISS SAROJ PURUSHOT-TAM KHAPARDE: SHRI ROSHAN LAL : SHRI VITHAL GADGIL : SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to a: ate :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Excise personnel look after customs work at land customs areas and minor ports on behalf of the Custom? Department which has to pay heavy charges to the Excise Department for such services;

(b) if so, what is the basis for such arrangements; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal under their considerations to review this policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) The Customs work at land Customs areas and minor ports is being attended to by the Central Excise Department. The

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sardar Amjad Ali.

Customs Department pays to the Central Excise Department the expenditure incurred by staff engaged on Customs work, and where the Central Excise officers perform both the Central Excise work and Customs work, the expenditure of such officers is divided on the basis of a formula evolved in consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General. This formula is currently under review. The amount paid was Rs. 4.26 crores in 1971-72 and Rs 4.33 crores in 1972-73.

(b) The basis for this arrangement is historical inasmuch as the present Central Excise Department is the successor to the old Salt Department which was originally entrusted with the administration of the minor ports. When land Customs frontiers were established after partition, the land Customs work was entrusted to Central Excise and Salt Collectorates looking after Salt, Tobacco and other excisable commodities in these areas.

(c) No, Sir. While the formula for payment of charges of Customs Department to Central Excise Department is under review, there is at present no proposal to change the pattern of performance of Customs work at Land Customs Stations and minor ports.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : May I know from the hon. Minister as to why is there the necessity that Excise personnel should be sent to the Customs Department or *vice versa*? Is it for the fact that there is shortage of personnel in the Customs Department for which Excise people are being sent? If so, what is the difficulty in having two different sets altogether in a different way?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, I tried to indicate in my reply that this is due to the way, historically both the departments have developed. When the departments were integrated, certain decisions had to be taken. Keeping in view the administrative problems and the problems of the personnel and their job opportunities etc., it was decided

that the Customs work in minor ports and land Customs areas should be looked after by the Central Excise Collectorate. As far as the formula is concerned, P. A. C. has also commented on this and two officers, one from the CAG and the other from the Revenue Department, are going through the formula. As the question of augmentation of staff for anti-smuggling operations of the Customs Department is now engaging the attention of the Government, the whole question can be reviewed based on administrative requirements and based on the question of personnel and officers belonging to both the departments.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : As far as we know, in order to sort out this entire complication, the Government of India set up a committee, known as Tiwari Committee or the Customs Study Team and we believe that the Customs Study Team submitted a report with certain recommendations in order to to gear up the Customs work in the country since it requires a specific type of knowledge for customs checking. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has thoroughly rejected the report and the recommendations of the Customs Study Team? If not, which of the recommendations have been accepted and what steps are being taken for reorientation of the Customs and the Excise Department as suggested by the Tiwari Committee?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Just now I do not have the material to answer as far as the Customs Study Team is concerned. We have answered it earlier and I would be prepared to answer again to the hon. Member. As far as the expertise is concerned, the Central Excise staff is engaged in minor ports and land Customs areas where the revenue involvement is not much and their main work is of preventive nature. There also, certain training is given an appraising work. . .

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Palam is a minor port.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Training is given to the Central Excise staff in appraising work whenever there is phasing work in a minor port. Appraisers from the Customs side are also sent for work connected with appraising. I do not say Palam is a minor port; Palam is under the Delhi Central Excise Collectorate and Palam is under an Air Pool. Air Pool is there for all the international airports and it is this Air Pool which looks after the Customs Work.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, the hon. Minister referred to the comments of the P.A.C. Now may I know from the hon. Minister what are the comments of the P.A.C. or is it receiving the Government's attention and has the Government taken any decision on the recommendations of the P.A.C?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The main point in the Report of the P.A.C. has been that the charges that the Customs Department is paying to the Central Excise has been going up from Rs. 2.31 crores to Rs. 3.45 crores in 1969-70 and later on to a much higher figure in 1970-71 and they have recommended that some sort of a rational formula should be evolved, and on this I had indicated that an officer of the CAG and also of the Revenue Department are going into the formula.

श्री रोशन लाल : जनाब, वजीर महसूफ ने यह तस्लीम किया कि बड़े अंतराजात होते हैं कस्टम के मुताल्लिक। उसके साथ ही आपने तस्लीम किया की कस्टम में आदमियों की कमी होने की वजह से एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट को ये जिम्मेदारियाँ सौंप दी गयी हैं। देखने में यह आया है कि एयरपोर्ट पर एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट वाले

अपने अस्तिथारत में नाजायज तजाबुज करके पैसिजर्स को ज्यादा हैरास करते हैं, चैकिंग नहीं करते हैं और उसके साथ करप्शन भी बढ़ता है। मैं वजीर महसूफ से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब आप इतनी रकम खर्च करते हैं तो अलग स्टाफ कस्टम का क्यों नहीं मुकरर करते ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I have tried to make it clear that the Central Excise staff is working only in minor ports. As far as major international ports are concerned there is the Air Pool which consists of a majority of Customs people and a percentage of Central Staff. As far as the Custom Houses are concerned, there the Customs Department staff is there. They are all trained properly and selected by a properly constituted Committee.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Sir, a Customs pool is created in Palam Airport and the Minister agrees that they are manned by the Central Excise staff. I would like to know from the Minister why the excise people are sent there. Placing the excise people for customs duties creates certain anomalies in the service conditions of the persons serving in the Customs Department. I would like to know from the Minister by creating this sort of anomaly how they are going to solve the problems of the Customs people.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, with regard to Air Pool I would like to inform the hon. Member. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are there anomalies created?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : In two Departments, the Central Excise Department and the Customs Department were integrated into one Central Excise and Customs Pool and there are problems of the staff. The Customs people feel that they do not have enough

opportunities because some portion is taken away by the Central Excise while the Central Excise people feel that because of this procedure there is no chance of promotion for them. This is a big administrative problem which has to be taken care of. As far as the Air Pool is concerned it is now being reviewed as to how best to harmonise the problems and the expectations of the staff of both the Departments.

*535. [The questioners (Shri Lokanath Misra and Shri K. P. Singh Deo) were absent. For answer, vide cols 42-43 infra.]

Identification of essential commodities

*536. SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified essential commodities used by the common man;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to control their prices so as to make them available throughout India at fair prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Essential Commodities and Articles of Mass Consumption to suggest long term and short term policies and measures for making such commodities available to the common man at reasonable prices. The Committee has submitted its report in December 1973; its recommendations are being examined.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : This question has been agitating the minds of many of us, including those on the Treasury Benches. I would like to know, in view of the soaring prices of essential commodities whether this particular recommendation of the Planning Commission will be taken into consideration without any further delay and whether it will be implemented in the near future.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : My second question is this. Yesterday in his reply to the Budget discussion the Finance Minister suggested that the two-tier price policy may be made applicable to many other items, besides steel, cement, etc. I would like to know whether the commodities which are considered to be essential for the common man will also be covered by this two-tier system.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I cannot give some sort of general answer to this. As I mentioned even yesterday, this requires to be very carefully considered. It has to take into consideration the method of production and then the method of distribution has also something to do with it. If there are shortages, possibly this method may be useful. In case there are no shortages, possibly this may not be of any use. So, I cannot say whether it can be or it is capable of being applied to all the commodities, but these exactly are the points which are being examined.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Man Singh Varma, a short question please.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : मंत्री जी से मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि लग्जरी गुड्स पर जितना इन्वेस्टमेंट हो रहा है उस के मुकाबले में एसेशियल कमोडिटीज के प्रोडक्शन के लिए जो खर्च किया जा रहा है उस का क्या परसेंटेज है ?

श्री य० ब० चव्हाण : बहुत छोटा सा प्रश्न है मगर मुझे बहुत ज्यादा वक्त लगेगा सारी इन्फार्मेशन मंगाने में ।

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : सूचना फिर दे देंगे क्या ?

श्री य० ब० चव्हाण : आप के सूचना मांगने पर दे देंगे ।

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN :
The hon. Minister has referred to the