

mance is closely analysed against the targets envisaged in the budget and variances are determined ; thereafter causes for such variations are found out and steps to avoid their recurrence. The management's attention is pointed to the variations and exceptions so as to initiate necessary remedial measures. It also helps to establish the lines of responsibility and authority and evaluate the performance of individuals, or a group of individuals or departments or units.

† WORLD BANK AND IDA LOAN FOR TRANSPORTATION

299. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank and the Industrial Development Association have agreed to lend about 4300 million dollars for transportation in different countries ; and

(b) if so, whether our country is getting any amount for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) World Bank and its soft-lending affiliate the International Development Association are planning on the basis of lending for the transport sector of the order of US \$ 4300 million over a five year period 1972 to 1976 in different countries, subject to availability of resources. The International Development Association has recently given a credit of \$ 75 million for the Indian Railways. In addition the Board of Executive Director of the Association has recently approved a credit of \$ 83 million for the acquisition of six tankers by the Shipping Corporation of India.

12 Noon

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) in the CHAIR]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

THE REPORTED FIRE IN THE GODOWN OF THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT IN THE CENTRAL REVENUE BUILDING IN INDRAPRASTHA ESTATE, NEW DELHI

श्री लाल आडवाणी (दिल्ली) : महोदया,

†Transferred from the 22nd March, 1972.

आप की आज्ञा से इन्द्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, नई दिल्ली स्थित केन्द्रीय राजस्व भवन में सीमा शुल्क विभाग के गोदाम में 2 अप्रैल, 1972 को आग लगने के कारण, कुछ महत्वपूर्ण सरकारी रिकार्ड के साथ-साथ लाखों रुपये के मूल्य की जूत की हुई आयातित वस्तुओं के क्षतिग्रस्त तथा नष्ट होने के समाचार की ओर वित्त मंत्री का ध्यान आकृष्ट करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : Madam, at about 12 O'Clock on Sunday, the 2nd April, 1972 the armed guard on duty noticed smoke coming out of the Customs godown in the Central Revenues building in Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi. As it was a Sunday, there was nobody working in the godown. The guard informed the officer on emergency duty, who immediately telephoned the fire brigade, which reached the spot in a few minutes. Fortunately, the breaking out of the fire had been noticed at an early stage. Because of prompt action by the staff and the fire brigade, the fire was brought under control speedily. In about an hour's time the fire brigade not only extinguished the fire but also completed the post-extinguishing jobs and had left.

2. The reports published in some newspapers that goods worth several lakhs of rupees have been damaged or destroyed are incorrect. The fact is that the contents of only about 20 packages have been destroyed or damaged. There are another 60 or 70 packages, the outer coverings of which have been charred by the flames but the contents appear to be undamaged. The extent of the damage done to the 20 odd packages is not exactly known but on a preliminary scrutiny it is estimated to be in the region of about Rs. 20,000/-only.

3. There has been no damage to any official records. In fact, in or near-about the spot where the fire broke out, there were no official records.

4. The officer on duty had also telephoned the senior officers of the Department including the Collector of Customs, Delhi, who reached the spot without loss of time. On that very day the Collector requested the local police and the Crime Branch of the police to investi-

gate the cause of the fire. The police are investigating into the same and have not yet submitted the report.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : The police, of course, would be submitting their report in good time, but I would like to know of the preliminary investigation made by the Department itself or by the Ministry itself and also whether it is true that sabotage is suspected as has been reported in the press or whether it is a plain mishap. Secondly, is this the first incident of this kind in the Customs Department or, have there been incidents of a similar nature occurring before as would make one suspect that perhaps the departmental employees themselves might be involved? Thirdly, I would like to know whether it is true that press photographers and newspaper reporters who went to the spot were prevented from taking stock of the situation or taking photographs of the scene. And lastly, I would like to know whether a complete inventory of the confiscated goods is available with the Government. What is the total value of the goods that were there in the godown before the fire took place and what is the value of the goods that now remain? Could it be possible that because of pilferage or something else in that godown this fire was started deliberately?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : From the preliminary investigation conducted by the senior officers and from the fact that no part of the building in which these goods were stocked have been damaged, it is not possible to conclude that there has been some sabotage. The police investigation is in progress and the officers of the Department have given their own views to the police who investigate this particular matter which they think require investigation. In a matter like this one cannot always rule out even sabotage or even some mischief. I would concede to the Member that it would require very serious looking into if there has been sabotage or anything. A complete inventory of all the confiscated goods which are stocked in the godown is maintained. It is audited by both Internal Auditor as well as by the Accountant General. The total value of the goods will be about Rs. 50 lakhs. Regarding whether any fire took place earlier, this is the first incident during the last 15 or 20 years as far as this godown is concerned. I do not have the facts about the press photographers being stopped there. I cannot tell at present.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi) : I would like to know whether the godown contained only the goods which have been forfeited because they were brought in without the permission of the Customs Authorities or it is a godown which stocks the goods pending clearance from the Customs Authorities and payment of the duties. Secondly I would like to know when the first information of the fire reached the responsible officers and after how much time somebody who was responsible—because the Minister said that nobody was working there but the In-charge of the godown otherwise when he received the information conveyed the incident having taken place to the responsible officials—reached the spot to inspect the event.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : He asked whether the godown contained other goods. Apart from the seized goods, other goods which are brought from the airport, goods which are in the process of clearance, are also stocked there. Regarding the second question, I have already indicated that immediately, without loss of time, the Collector of Customs reached the spot.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, it has been stated that there were imported goods. There may be claims regarding the goods that may have to be gone into by the Customs Officers and a decision taken on those claims. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any assessment has been made about such goods about which claims are likely to be made or are all the goods of such a nature that there will be no claim by any party?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : As far as confiscated goods are concerned it is a very clear category. Goods which are confiscated by the Customs authorities are kept in the same godown but separate registers are there. There is a process by which these goods are given to the various organisations for sale under the direct supervision of the Collector of Customs. As far as other goods are concerned like imported cargo which come by air, unaccompanied baggage etc. These are a separate category.

SHRI M. ANANDAM (Andhra Pradesh) : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it had been insured against fire and if so what is the total amount for which it had

[Shri M. Anandam]

been insured and may I know whether any claim has been made in this connection to the Insurance Company in respect of the damage caused by this fire ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I do not have this information with me now.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो 20,000 रु० की हानि उन्होंने बताई है, उसमें कितने टेलिविजन सेट्स थे और कितनी घड़ियां थीं; क्योंकि ऐसा पता लगा है कि कुछ टेलिविजन सेट्स जान बूझ कर वहां से हटा दिए गए थे और उस चोरी को छिपाने के लिए आग लगाई है।

श्री के० आर० गणेश : क्या आप अपने सवाल को रिपीट करेंगे ?

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जो हानि हुई है, उसमें कितने टेलिविजन सेट्स और कितनी घड़ियां थीं और इसी प्रकार का कोई विवरण यदि आपके पास है, डिटेल्स हैं, तो कृपा करके बताने का कष्ट करें।

SHRI K. R. GANESH : There are no watches because according to the customary practice gold and watches are kept separately whenever they are confiscated. And there are no TV sets also.

SHRI M. SRINIVASA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Is the Government convinced that the fire was due to an accident ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I have already answered that question.

SHRI M. SRINIVASA REDDY : Has the Government got any definite information that the fire was due to an accident or has it got any doubt that mischief might also have had a part ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : That has been dealt with I think. Let us go to the next item on the agenda.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE NAVAL AND AIRCRAFT PRIZE RULES, 1972

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Defence Notification S. R. O. No. 4-E, dated the 2nd February, 1972, issued under sub-rule (14) of rule 2 of the Naval and Aircraft Prize Rules, 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1669/72]

DRAFT ORDERS UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : I beg to lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) each of the following Draft Orders of the Department of Company Affairs, under sub-section (6) of section 81 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Draft Order No. 33/5/72-CL. III, dated the 30th March, 1972.

(ii) Draft Order No. 33/8/72-CL. III, dated the 30th March, 1972.

(iii) Draft Order No. 33/14/72-CL. III, dated the 30th March, 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1674/72 for (i) to (iii)]

I. FIRST ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1970-71) OF THE BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED, HYDERABAD AND RELATED PAPERS

II. SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1970-71) OF THE BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED, BANGALORE AND RELATED PAPERS

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) each of the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) First Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the years 1970-71, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.