

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : First we must have iron ore around Kandla.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : The hon'ble Minister said that Visakhapatnam would have a capacity to handle 1 lakh ton carriers only in 1974 and in the meantime our freight rates to Japan would be nearly doubled as compared to Australia. I understand that our freight rate would amount to 3.75 American dollars as against 1.90 American dollars from Australia. So the difference is of nearly 2 dollars per ton. What are the Government's plans to offset this disadvantage?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Madam, the disadvantage will continue, it is true. Although the price fetched by Australian ore and Indian ore is about the same they compete in the freight charges. And that is why we are trying to develop port mechanisation and other things. To the extent it is not done we will remain uncompetitive.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : Madam, if the major ports are not able to handle these exports, why recourse is not taken to minor ports which are nearly 164 in number? As a matter of fact, minor ports have been exporting large quantities of iron ore to Japan. In the circumstances, why the Government should not think of the possibility of developing these minor ports so that more exports are handled?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We are using the minor ports to the extent possible. But I think the hon'ble Member will appreciate that when we have a programme we must go in for the ports we have taken up in hand already. If we complete them we can go to the other ports. We cannot take up all the ports, major and minor.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know from the hon'ble Minister what efforts are being made by him to develop an integrated plan for export promotion. I think the Minister knows definitely well that it is the competitive price that can stand us in the international market so far as our iron ore or any other ore export is concerned, and if he feels that competitive prices are the only consideration for finding an exportable market, what effort has been made by him to take up the matter with the Shipping Ministry so that ports which are nearer to the mining areas are developed earlier than the other ports which have nothing to do with

minerals? The point is, Madam, that if the transport cost to the port is quite high, then it cannot compete in the world market. Therefore, the mine has also to be nearer the port. And Paradeep probably is the nearest.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : There are four major ports that will be given integrated development in the next five years, (1) Visakhapatnam, (2) Paradeep, (3) Madras, and (4) Goa, not in that priority. All the four are being developed, Paradeep also.

ISSUE OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT TO SHRI NIJALINGAPPA

*758. **SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Congress President, Shri Nijalingappa, was issued Diplomatic Passport during his visit to several countries of Europe in June, 1969; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) A diplomatic passport was issued to Shri Nijalingappa under the Government's discretionary powers.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : May I know from the hon. Minister—I do not grudge whether they give a diplomatic passport to Mr. Nijalingappa or anybody in the street—what the definite policy of the Government is about discretion? (*Interruption*) Do not bother because it is a case concerning Mr. Nijalingappa. I charge the Government here that in the case of leaders of other political parties, this discretion has not been utilised. So, I want to know definitely from the hon. Minister about the rules regarding diplomatic passport—there is nothing like discretion there—how Government can utilise that discretion and for what interest.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Madam, I am rather surprised as to how the hon. Member can say that the Government does not have this discretionary power. Under Item 20 of the list of persons to whom diplomatic passports can be given, it is clearly stated that the External Affairs Minister has discretion in this regard. All rules and regulations were placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Madam, in the rules that were laid on the Table of the House, it was specifically mentioned in one of the rules that a social worker can claim a diplomatic passport. And I want to inform this House, Madam, that under that pretext Kantilal Desai was given a diplomatic passport. It is wrong, Madam, to say, as it has been aired by the other side some time ago, that Kantilal Desai got a diplomatic passport for some other reason, because I have seen the qualification of Mr. Kantilal Desai for which a diplomatic passport was given, that is, he is a social worker. I want to know from the hon. Minister what the definition of "social worker" is. Are not all Parliament Members also social workers and all M.L.As. also are social workers? I am not in favour of diplomatic passports being given to us. But I want to know categorically from the Minister whether he will define in the House what "social worker" means. As far as discretionary powers are concerned, will the leaders of all political parties be given diplomatic passports as Mr. Nijalingappa was given? Otherwise, henceforward Mr. Nijalingappa and such other persons should not be given diplomatic passports.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Madam, I am sure the Member has seen these rules carefully when he says that diplomatic passports are given to social workers. I have not found a category in these rules where social workers are to be given diplomatic passports.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Madam, I want to correct him. In the report that was placed on the Table of this House as regards who can get diplomatic passports, against the name of Kantilal Desai it was written within brackets "Social Worker." This has been laid on the Table of this House. That was the qualification. The qualification was not that he accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister. The qualification was that he was a social worker.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Madam, this question deals with Mr. Nijalingappa's passport and not with Mr. Kantilal Desai. And no passport, to my knowledge, was given to Mr. Kantilal Desai because he was a social worker.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. Mahavir.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Madam, what about the other political party leaders? I asked a specific question about that. He has not replied to it. It should not remain unreplyed to.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : That will depend on the person and the importance of the visit concerned. That is where discretionary powers come in, Madam.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I would like to know specifically which leaders of other parties have been given this diplomatic passport so far. I would like to know the names and the parties they represent. Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if discretion, according to him, means unrestricted arbitrary choice or arbitrary decision. Discretion means judgment on certain norms. Are there norms or not, and if there are, have those norms been exercised in favour of other parties also?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Regarding diplomatic passports to leaders of other political parties, Madam, I do not have the list here. But I am quite sure that a number of hon. Members who claim to be leaders of their political parties have been given diplomatic passports from time to time, when they have gone on a mission where it was considered necessary for them to have a diplomatic passport.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : If the Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, and the Chief Minister of Orissa, Mr. Singh Deo, were given diplomatic passports, it is because they are Chief Ministers and not because they are leaders of political parties.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH SINGH : I cannot answer two or three Members at the same time. I was trying to say that Members of Parliament who are leaders of political parties have been given diplomatic passports when they had gone on an assignment where we had felt that they had the need to have diplomatic passports.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : I would like to know whether the Minister knows that Mr. Nijalingappa himself was a Chief Minister and now he is a sitting member of the Legislative Assembly of Mysore, in addition

to being the President of the Congress ? *(Interruption)* Therefore, what the Government has done is, according to me, the "rightest" thing possible.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : There are so many ex-Chief Ministers in this House and in the other House. So let us not bother about ex-Chief Ministers.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Madam, may I know if it is the policy of the Government to grant businessmen and those pursuing business missions diplomatic passports? When the Government granted Mr. Nijalingappa a diplomatic passport to go to Japan, he was accompanied by Mr. Guttal, a Public Relations Officer of Mangalore Fertilisers, to which firm Mr. Nijalingappa as Chief Minister had advanced Rs. 20 lakhs for setting up a fertiliser plant. Those Rs. 20 lakhs have disappeared, the fertiliser plant has not come up and the collaborators have backed out. May I know if it is correct that Mr. Nijalingappa went to Japan to persuade Toyo Engineering to enter into collaboration with Mangalore Fertilisers whose Public Relations Officer, Mr. Guttal, accompanied him?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : So far as I could make out, Madam, the question is whether Mr. Nijalingappa went to Japan on a business visit. The purpose of his visit was that he was invited, Madam.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Madam, I seek your protection. I have made a definite statement that Mr. Nijalingappa was accompanied by Mr. Guttal, Public Relations Officer of Mangalore Fertilisers, and Mr. Guttal was described as the Secretary . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : Private Secretary.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : . . . very Private Secretary to Mr. Nijalingappa. May I know if the Government is aware of these things or not. This is a specific allegation which has repeatedly been made in the Press and now I am making it with full responsibility on the floor of the House. The Minister must reply to it.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Madam, you will appreciate that the hon. Member has made many accusations and I cannot reply to it offhand; it will not

be fair of me. He has said about money being advanced to various companies, money disappearing and all that. How can I say about all these things? There are definite rules about making these allegations and if the hon. Member wants any information, he knows how to get it. So far as Mr. Guttal's visit is concerned, from the information available to me, Mr. Guttal accompanied Mr. Nijalingappa as his Secretary.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Madam, because of the recent truce in the Congress Party the Government should not find it inconvenient to answer the supplementary questions. Now the question is what the names are of the office-bearers of the Congress Party who have so far been given diplomatic passports besides Mr. Nijalingappa and of the leaders or office-bearers of other political parties who are not Members of Parliament who have been given diplomatic passports in their capacity as office-bearers, and also as to why a special favour has been shown to the Congress President. There is also the question put by Mr. Arjun Arora as to how a trade official of a particular private company accompanying the Congress President as his private secretary, could get diplomatic immunities. Madam, all these things are very strange and they create suspicion.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Madam, a diplomatic passport was not given to Mr. Guttal. So far as the question of the people accompanying the Congress President is concerned, it is for the Congress President to decide whom he wishes to take with him. Such persons being the citizens of India and our not having any objection, passports are given to them in the normal course. So far as the issue of diplomatic passports is concerned, offhand I can say that a diplomatic passport was issued to Mr. Nijalingappa. A diplomatic passport was also issued to Mr. Kamraj . . .

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : They are of the Congress. Your discretionary power is being exercised only in favour of the Congress people.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : . . . and the honourable Members will appreciate that as distinguished Presidents of the Indian National Congress which has the privilege to serve the people of India and have their confidence, they are entitled to diplomatic passports.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :
Madam, . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No more. Now Mr. Kothari.

PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI : Being in public life as public leaders, it imposes a special responsibility on any political party to clear up the image of its leader. In view of the charges and allegations made now, may I know if the Minister and the Government would oblige the House by going into the details and informing the House as to what Mr. Nijalingappa, our Congress President, had done which might tarnish the image of our party in the eyes of the country, and . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. That is outside the scope of this question.

PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI :
. . . would the Government . . .

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :
What is this nonsense, Madam ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
Please sit down, Mr. Kothari. Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
Madam, without going into this controversy, I want to have a clarification from the honourable Minister because he has made a very surprising statement that it was for the Congress President to decide as to who should accompany him to foreign countries. I think it is the responsibility of the Ministry of External Affairs to see whether the man accompanying the Congress President is a desirable person or not, because if the Congress President has this authority today, tomorrow the Communist Party (Marxist) or the C.P.(I) or the Jan Sangh or the Swatantra Party, may quote this precedent and claim that they can carry anybody with them as their private secretary. How can the Government take the stand that it was for the Congress President to decide without knowing the *bona fides* of the person who has been given a passport as the private secretary of the Congress President ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Have you got anything to say ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Madam, I have clearly stated that it was for the Congress President to decide whom he would like to take with him and such person being a citizen of India and our having nothing against him which prohibits the issue of a passport to him, a passport was issued to him. We are dealing with the question of the issue of passports to people and that is governed by certain regulations which have been approved and under those regulations Mr. Guttal was entitled to a passport and a passport was given to him.

*759. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols . . . infra.]

*619. [The questioner (Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy) was absent. For answer, vide cols. . . infra.]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED BY FILMS

*760. **DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign exchange earning from Indian films shown abroad during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount earned by foreign films exhibited in India and repatriated abroad during the above period;

(c) the mode of repatriation of money earned by the foreign films; and

(d) the countries to which this money was repatriated ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Value of exports of films during 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 stood at Rs. 1.52 crores, Rs. 3.89 crores and Rs. 2.95 crores respectively.

(b) and (d) The information is being collected.

(c) The remittances abroad are effected by the companies through the normal banking channels after obtaining the approval of Reserve Bank of India.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Madam, I would like to know from the Government how many