

separate cell to safeguard their interests should be brushed aside so lightly by the hon. Minister ? What mechanism is there to safeguard their interests ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: .Sir, we do not treat this matter lightly and we have not brushed aside any suggestion regarding this in a light-hearted manner. I have already indicated that we have a machinery for looking into the interests and safeguarding the interests of various minority sections in our community. Now as far as the linguistic minorities are concerned, there is the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities. As far as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, there is the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As far as the general religious minorities of the country are concerned, the Government as a point of honour took it upon themselves to look after their interests in a proper manner as and when the question arises. *[Interruption]* The Government's own machinery itself is meant for protection...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, you are misleading the House.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: May I complete my answer ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Nothing is being done.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: We are doing whatever is necessary and we are determined to continue to protect the interests of all the minorities who are living in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Next question. Fifteen minutes have already been taken.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, आपने मुझ-को बुलाया था, अब हमारे साथ अन्याय न किया जाय।

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right; I did call you.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद् की जो बैठक हुई थी, क्या उसमें राष्ट्र की परिभाषा भी कोई की गई थी ? पहले राष्ट्र क्या है,

राष्ट्र की परिभाषा क्या है, यह जान लिया जाय। जब राष्ट्र की परिभाषा होगी तब तो राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद् होगी। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ सरकार से कि सरकार के दिमाग में क्या है ? हिन्दू राष्ट्र का नारा उठाने वाले भी क्या राष्ट्रीय एकता में सहायक हो सकते हैं और क्या सरकार को जानकारी है कि इस देश में ऐसे तत्व हैं, जो हिन्दू राष्ट्र का नारा बुलन्द कर रहे हैं और हिन्दू राष्ट्र का नारा बुलन्द करने वाले क्या राष्ट्रीय एकता में बाधक नहीं हैं ? इस पर मैं सरकार का जवाब जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जहाँ तक राष्ट्र के बारे में जो प्रश्न पूछा है उसका सम्बन्ध है, हमारे संविधान में राष्ट्र की परिभाषा दी हुई है, अगर माननीय सदस्य उसको देखेंगे तो समझ जाएंगे कि हमारा राष्ट्र कहा निहित है। जहाँ तक हिन्दू राष्ट्र का नारा उठाने का सवाल है गृह मंत्री जी ने और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बार-बार इस सदन के सामने इस बात को साफ किया है कि हिन्दू राष्ट्र का नारा जो लगाते हैं वे देश के लिए खतरनाक लोग हैं।

PORT DEVELOPMENT

*183. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : WUI the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken as regards Port development and the names of the ports that will be developed in the Fourth Plan; and

(b) whether in developing the Ports, introduction of mechanisation will be undertaken to reduce the cost of handling?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Proposals for the development of Ports during the Fourth Five Year Plan are under consideration in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(b) Mechanical handling facilities are already existing at various ports in varying degrees and it is proposed to improve, to the extent necessary, these facilities particularly in regard to bulk commodities.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, it was just now stated that the Government is yet to come to a final decision. At least, is the Government aware that for imports' of development of the exports and imports of this country and for handling about 60 million tonnes of cargo that we have now reached—we may reach the figure of 120 million tonnes soon—an integrated plan is necessary? May I know whether the Government has thought about the question of the dredging of the Calcutta Port and establishing a satellite port at Nhava Shewa near Bombay for the solution of the problem of congestion? In this connection, what steps—does the Government propose to take for an integrated and mechanised development of all these ports?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH : AU these proposals, the Nhava, Shewa port, etc., are under consideration. These are the proposals which we have agreed to and when the final plan is approved, they will be taken up.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Government is giving all along the stock reply that when the final plan is approved, it will be done. No body is sure when the plan will come. How many years will it take to complete that plan? Leaving aside that—my blood boils when they say that it will be done when the final plan is approved—I would like to know from the Government whether, along with the development of these ports and the satellite ports, the Government has made a review of coastal shipping and the small ports, because that also forms part of the integrated economic infrastructure, for the development of industry and trade. I want the Government to be specific and positive in this respect.

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: Sir, regarding positive things, they will be accepted in the Fourth Plan when it is decided by the Government, and the Fourth Plan Draft will come to this House. All these proposals will be taken into account. We are also thinking on these lines.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: Sir, I wish to put a question regarding the Masulipatnam port. You are aware that Masulipatnam port is one of the most ancient ports, a port which attracted Western maritime powers in the beginning of the 17th century. That port is not in proper condition now. I want to know what steps Government propose to take to develop that port. I may also say that it is the nearest port to Hyderabad, the Capital of Andhra Pradesh, and the nearest port to the rich hinterland in Andhra Pradesh, situated as it is in the Central part of Andhra Pradesh. What steps does the Government propose to take to develop that port?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH : Sir, minor ports are the responsibility of the State Governments. But we propose to take one minor port and one intermediary port in each State in consultation with the State Governments for financial assistance from the Centre.

SHRI C. ACHUTA MENON : Sir, is it a fact that the Working Group on Transport and Shipping of the Planning Commission has slashed the allotment of the Cochin Port from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 30 crores? Secondly, may I know, Sir, whether the demand made by the Cochin Port authorities for the purchase of a new dredger, because they have got only an old one there, has been turned down by the Government of India, and whether the Government of India is prepared to consider the allotment of one new dredger to the Cochin Port because silting is very much there and the Port is in a very great need of desilting operation?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: Regarding the Cochin Port, the dredging of the channel is also one of the proposals under consideration. The question of purchasing a dredger will be considered later...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI : Sir, the Port of Kandla...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, on a point of order. The previous Minister, Dr. Rao, as Minister of Transport and Shipping, stated in a seminar in Bombay that the plan was ready. But now the Government says that it is under consideration.

What type of thinking is there in the Government. Please explain to us so that we can understand it properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not represent any constituency.

i

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, Dr. Rao stated in a seminar that he was ready with the plan. But now the Minister says he is considering the plan. Would you please ask them to be specific in the matter?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: It will be considered by the Central Government. It will be done by the Central Cabinet. Then only we can say that the plan is ready. I can only reply that the plan is under consideration until it is approved. It is under consideration and we are thinking of that

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI: Sir, the Port of Kandla is a major port and it is under the control of the Government of India, but no steamer or liner is touching it for the last three months, and a large number of labourers are unemployed. Kandla is supposed to take the place of Karachi and with her big hinterland it is now used only for the import of fertilizers and foodgrains. And there is very little traffic. May I know from the Government what steps it proposes to take to activate Kandla which is a major port?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: Sir, regarding the expansion of Kandla also there is a proposal. As regards the statement that there is no traffic for three months, I have no information.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : May I know, Sir, if the Government has made any study about the total losses suffered annually because of the demurrage which we have to pay to ships coming from other lands which have to wait for several days as there are no working facilities in our ports? If so, may I know what steps are taken to save the losses? May I also know if any amount of investment is involved for expediting the development of ports that is generally being done? Secondly, may I know if the movement aspect by mechanisation is being thought of for handling cargo in the ports, and if that has been taken into account what effect it will have on the movement aspect of the problem?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH : Regarding the development of ports I have already said that at present the total capacity is about 55 million tons and we propose to increase it to 100 million tons by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. That is a major step which will improve the port facilities and also the time of the ships at the port. Regarding mechanical and handling facilities, they are under our study and we propose to go into the matter cautiously in consultation with all concerned.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : May I know from the hon. Minister whether a final decision has been taken as regards the total outlay for the development of the major ports because it is under discussion with the Planning Commission? What is the outlay that the Transport and Shipping Ministry suggested to the Planning Commission for expenditure in the Fourth Five Year Plan? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister in that plan outlay that has been suggested by the Transport Ministry, how much allocation has been made for the Paradeep Port which is the deepest port on the eastern coast, for the development of the Port and also for export promotion.

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH : I cannot go into the total outlay. It is not yet approved by the Planning Commission. Regarding the other question we propose to increase the capacity of the Paradeep Port from 4 to 6 million tons. At present it is handling 4.5 million tons. It will increase to 6 millions.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, on a point of order. In reply to most of the questions and most of the supplementaries the Minister, because he is new to the department, has stated that he has no information. So, you would please allow a half-an-hour discussion on this so that he can collect all the information and come to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raghuramaiah, would you say something?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : I appreciate. Sir, the generosity of my friend in complimenting that because we are new we are not able to answer the questions. . . (Interruptions) But the question is this : What are the final proposals in the Fourth Five Year Plan? Various proposals are

to be passed and they are being discussed with the Planning Commission. They have to be discussed again in the National Development Council. They have then to be considered by the Cabinet. Till then it will be premature for us to say what the specific proposals are. But the broad lines of our approach, the Minister has already indicated, namely, increase in the tonnage and handling capacity from 55 million tons to 100 million tons and various other improvements. More than that. Sir it will be premature to say.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: May I know from the Minister if it is a fact that during the last six months' arrivals of ships at the Kandla Port have been reduced considerably and that in order induce fuller movement of shipping the Chairman of the Kandla Port Trust has gone to Calcutta? If he has gone, has he the authority of the Minister and what are the details of his visit?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH : Sir, I have no information on that ...

(Interruptions)

DR. B. N. ANTANI : For a long time we are not honoured with a visit of the Minister of Shipping to the Kandla Port. Has Kandla seemed to be an old Port that he was not interested in visiting it ? May we now expect the new Minister to pay a visit and see Kandla himself?

SHRI N. SRI RAM REDDY : Sir, what are the steps taken by the Government with regard to the Dharwar Port in Mysore State in the Fourth Five Year Plan?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I must make it clear that there is some disorder getting on in this House. (Interruptions) Please sit down. (Interruptions) so far as the questions are concerned, the questioner is the most important person and I would ask two or three more Members to put questions, but I cannot allow a big debate over a question. It is impossible to get on with the question time if you cannot cooperate with me. Now, already about ten Members have put questions. How can we get on unless you say only one question a day ? I can understand if you pass a

resolution in this House and say "only one question a day". But it is not the intention of anyone including myself. Therefore, you must cooperate with me. I am trying to satisfy every party as best as possible giving it an opportunity to put a question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you please give your ruling after the question hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no ruling. I do not believe in giving rulings if I can convince the House of my position and understand your position-----

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I entirely agree with you but...

(Interruptions)

RETIREMENT AGE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*184. SHRI A. D. MANI :† DR.

BHAI MAHAVIR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 42 Members of Parliament have submitted a memorandum asking for the reduction in the retirement age of Central Government employees from the present age of 58 to 55;

(b) if so, the names of Members of Parliament who have submitted this memorandum;

(c) what is the gist of the memorandum; and

(d) whether any decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See below).

(d) As regards the question of direct recruitment, since the Administrative Reforms Commission are already considering questions relating to personnel policies (including recruitment policies) Government would like to await their recommendations. The

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. D. Mani.