

money-changer or travel agent. I here have been no such cases in 1966 and 1967.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know why there have been no such cases ?

SHRI A. M. TARIQ : I would like to know from the hon. Deputy Finance Minister whether it is a fact that Mr. Shanti Prasad Jain is a habitual offender and whether any action has been taken against him. There has been a talk on this.

AN HON. MEMBER : Notice.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ : Why should there be any notice ? He has been caught many times.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : It does not arise out of this question.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ : He is a habitual offender. Anybody can be a habitual offender whether he is an authorised dealer or not. Mr. Shanti Prasad Jain has been declared a habitual offender. May I know whether his licences have been cancelled ?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : He is not licensed. This question is about licences for any authorised dealer, money-changer or travel agent.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I want to know about the Textile Corporation which was lined for under-invoicing and defrauding the Government in respect of foreign exchange. On the payment of Rs. 40,000 as advance . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should put a separate question. Next question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, it concerns foreign exchange. May I know whether foreign exchange was given to it and why?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put a separate question.

O.N.G.C. STRIKE

◆652. SHRI AMD ALI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answers to Starred Questions No. 234 and 372 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th November, 1967 and 10th December, 1967 respectively and state the date on which the demands of the workers were forwarded to the O.N.G.C. and the action taken by the O.N.G.C. before the strike began?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : The O.N.G.C. Employees Mazdoor Sabha submitted a Charter of Demands to the Commission on the 25th June, 1967. A meeting was held by the Chairman, O.N.G.C. with the Sabha representatives on the 18th and 19th August, 1967 to arrive at a settlement. The President of the Sabha and other members of his Executive Committee were also invited by the Chairman, O.N.G.C. for further talks on the 33rd August, 1967. But the representatives of the Sabha did not attend on that date.

SHRI AMD ALI : May I know, Sir, when the strike took place and when this matter was settled?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : They went on strike on 12th September and remained on strike up to the 24th September. Subsequently there had been discussions between the Chairman of the O.N.G.C. and the representatives of the Sabha. An agreement had been arrived at on the 9th December. But the agreement had to be signed before the adjudicator by the parties. It expected to take place in the last week of this month.

SHRI ABID ALI : May I know, Sir, whether the employing Ministries and the officers in charge of the various projects in the public sector would ever realise the necessity of being responsive to the legitimate demands of the workers in order to settle with them without waiting for the workers to resort to a strike?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I am afraid the hon. Member's sympathies are misplaced. As far as the O.N.G.C. was concerned, it was most responsive. As has been pointed out, because the Union came forward with demand of a flat 15 per cent increase in wages and now—a proposal or suggestion which had never been made before—it was impossible for the Chairman to agree to it. Even then the O.N.G.C. agreed to refer the matter to conciliation straightaway and to adjudication. The Government of India agreed to all that. But, as has been pointed out, the Union went on an illegal strike. Even when that illegal strike was on the point of collapse my colleague and I intervened. I am sure the hon. Member knows all the facts. Everything possible was done to see that the workers are given the fairest possible terms.

SHRI ABID ALI : I do not agree with that.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Is it a fact, **Sir**, that during the last 20 years of our experience in all matters pertaining to the wage earners in this country the Government has proved that it is their inherent character not to attend to grievances promptly unless an agitation or an demonstration including sabotage takes place?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : You are in a better position to answer what the Indian character is as far as the labour movement here is concerned.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : **Sir**, a settlement has been arrived at though very late. May I know, **Sir**, from the hon. Member whether he is aware of the fact that in violation of the code of conduct two Unions are being recognised in the Headquarters of the O.N.G.C. May I know, **Sir**, whether he is prepared to reconsider the matter and agree to have only one representative Union so that there are no pinpricks in future ?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : I have no particular knowledge of this. But I think there was some dispute as to who should be invited in this discussion. And the Sabha at one time said that the other Union should not be called. But I think the O.N.G.C. did call representatives of certain Unions. But whether they were recognised or not, I would like to have notice.

SHRI A. D. MANI : **Sir**, in view of the situation of our country and the fact that we are earning foreign exchange and in view of the importance of the fuel industry to the economy of our country, may I know, **Sir**, whether the point has been considered that this O.N.G.C., as far as oil refineries are concerned, should be declared assential services so that strikes in any circumstances will become illegal?

SHRI K. RAGHURVMAIAH : It is a suggestion which would be borne in mind if the situation so arises.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know, **Sir**, why the Minister was so angry when the workers demanded a 15 per cent, raise in Wages? They have every right to demand 15 per cent, or even more raise. Does not the Minister remember that when he himself was a labour leader in 1950, he

organised a general strike of the Bombay textile workers against an award of a Tribunal which no labour union now does ? May I know why he has changed now?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I will not reply to the second part of the question because it has no relevance. As far as the first part is concerned. . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : **It** reveals your true colours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not bring in personal remarks.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : If he wants to discuss colours here, **Sir**, I know all the colours on the palette and I shall identify them. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No personal remarks-SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : As far as the first part is concerned, as I pointed out,, suddenly a demand for a 15 per cent-raise was raised with the Chairman. The Chairman cannot enter into negotiations unless he has the demands well in advance. He has to consult the Commission. He cannot come to a decision without consulting the Commission. Then they said that either he must agree to the demand or there would be a strike. I am sure any trade union representative here or any one with trade union experience will see that this is a very difficult situation to face.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : My question arises out of the hon. Minister's reply. He-said that the Unions said that unless it was agreed there would be a strike. May I know, **Sir**, if the management offered anything short of 15 per cent. So that there could be a compromise? May I know whether they did make an offer at all before the workers were forced to go-on strike?

As for the question of declaring oil and natural gas service as essential service, is the Government aware that there would be wide spread resentment if such a step is taken? On the contrary there will be a situation which would lead to more and more strike because the management would try to suppress the workers? Because the Minister said that the suggestion would be borne in mind, that is why I am putting that question. If this is done it will lead to more and more strike and the management will suppress the workers which would lead to industrial unrest.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : Regarding the second part of the question, I only said "when the situation so arises" and I stand by it. As for the first part, Sir, when the notice containing over 40 demands was given it did not contain this interim pay rise. At one of the meetings held on the 18th and 19th August this demand was suddenly sprung on the Chairman. This was a matter which the Chairman could not adjudicate straightaway. So he offered to consider the matter. They had another meeting. He invited them to a meeting on the 23rd August. They agreed to come. But at the last minute they said, "No, we are not coming." I do not think we can blame the Chairman on this matter.

SHRI ABID ALI : In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, may I know, Sir, whether he has been kind enough to have a list of the occasions on which the demands were submitted and the dates when they were settled, and is it not a fact that these demands are settled only after an agitation or strike. If he has not got a list, he may kindly have it and be helpful so that there is no necessity of agitation or strike.

M/s. PAHILAJ & Co., BOMBAY

♦653. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 491 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 1967 and state :

(a) whether the investigations by Government regarding income-tax evasion by M/s. Pahilaj & Co., Bombay have since been completed; and if so, the result thereof; and

(b) whether the relationship between this concern and the India-Nepal Gift House, New York has been established and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Investigations are still in progress.

SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : May I know, Sir, whether the C.B.I. has raided the premises of Pahilaj Co., Aidum Building, Bombay, and has seized incriminating documents relating to income tax evasion, import and export breaches and, if so whether these documents have been scrutinised by the authorities concerned.

वजीर साहब ने यह कहा कि वे इन्क्वायरी कर रहे हैं। मैं उनसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि काफी अरसे पहले पि ले सेशन में यह सवाल उठाया गया था, तब भी उन्होंने यही जवाब दिया था कि इन्क्वायरी कर रहे हैं तो अब जब कि टैक्स ईवेजन् है, इनक्रिमिनेटिंग डॉक्यूमेंट्स पकड़े गए हैं और बहुत सी चीजें हैं तो फिर क्यों इतनी डिले हो रही है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ वजीर साहब से कि क्या रेड करने के बाद उस कम्पनी को नए लाइसेंसेज भी दिए गए हैं ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : So far as the delay is concerned, Sir, the Enforcement Directorate made a search in this case some months ago and seized certain documents. Thereafter, the legality of the search and the seizure was challenged in the High Court by the party. And in the High Court, an undertaking was given on behalf of the Enforcement Directorate that no prosecution will be launched or penalties imposed pending the disposal of the writ petition. Thereafter, the Enforcement Directorate made certain enquiries and on this, the party again went to the Court and charged the Enforcement Directorate with contempt of the Court. This matter is still sub-judice and is hanging in the Court.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Sir, on 7-12-1966, I raised this question of M/s. Pahilaj and Co., Bombay. At that time, I said that this Indo-Nepal Gift House, New York, has been formed only to have a criminal conspiracy between these two firms to cheat the Government of India. At that time, I also stated that Mr. K. L. Punjabi, ex-chief Secretary of the Maharashtra Government was the go-between between these two firms and the then Commerce Minister and was securing licences for these firms. And the Minister on that day, 7-12-1966, said that he would enquire and inform the House. May I know why even after the lapse of one year the Minister cannot establish this connection and cannot give further facts ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, it is not that no progress has been made. Investigations have progressed. But when the search and the seizure on the basis of which investigations are proceeding, have been questioned in the High Court, I am unable to give any further information.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, from the Texined Corporation of this company, about 130 files were seized, but only about 2g files were scrutinised and the rest were returned without any scrutiny and