

raised by this Scheme during the last four years?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I have already explained the position. From 1964 onwards whatever price increase has been made, I have stated that before this House just now.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: May I know whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to a recent feature in *The Statesman* calling attention to the rudeness, graft and corruption on the part of the employees of the Delhi Milk Scheme? If so, what steps have the Minister taken in regard to that?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I cannot guarantee that there is no malpractice anywhere, but recently one very disturbing feature we have noticed; there has been some tampering with the seals of the bottles and I am really sorry to state this. Most of the employees are students. They are employed part-time. If our student community takes to this thing, it is a very unfortunate thing for our country. We have tightened up the supervision machinery. We have appointed more inspectors and they are checking up now. I think more or less it is now under control.

SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: It seems there is considerable disparity between the prices ruling in the market and also the price that has been charged by the Scheme. May I know whether the disparity affects the supply of milk to the milk project?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have firm contracts with the contractors. Of course these market prices have necessarily some effect on the price at which the Delhi Milk Scheme procures milk. By and large as a result of our procurement contract with the contractors the supply position is improving as compared to the last few years.

VESSELS SEIZED BY PAKISTAN DURING THE CONFLICT

*230. **SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state the number of Indian vessels seized by Pakistan during the 1965 conflict and how they were disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): Three ocean-going ships, four sailing vessels and 173 Inland Water Transport craft belonging to India were seized by Pakistan during the 1965 conflict. Two of our ocean going vessels were returned to us in October, 1966 in exchange for two ocean-going ships belonging to Pakistan held by us. All the other vessels are still held up in Pakistan.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: May I know what is the value of the ships seized and the tonnage and whether the ships seized by them have been disposed of by the Pakistan Government? If they are disposed of, may I know whether they have done it in accordance with the rules of international law or any international convention?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: The insured value of the three ships is Rs. 145 lakhs; of the sailing vessels about Rs. 12½ lakhs; and of the inland water transport belonging to the Rivers Steam Navigation Company it has been estimated at Rs. 180 lakhs. Two of these ocean-going vessels which have been returned—they in fact constitute the bulk of the value—"Saraswati" and "Jalarajendra", account for an insured value of Rs. 134 lakhs. Regarding the last question, the third ship which is a small one called "Shakila" is still in the hands of Pakistan, and we have one of their ships in our hands. Negotiations are going on for the mutual return of these two ships. So far nothing very much has happened. Meanwhile there was a complaint that this ship was placed before the Courts in Pakistan

to be declared as a prize. We made enquiries and we found that it was not true. But what seems to have happened is there is a court order attaching this ship for a loan or a debt of Rs. 2 lakhs which is claimed to be due against the owners of that ship. Regarding the inland water transport and sailing vessels in spite of our best efforts we have not been able to persuade Pakistan to return them to us, nor are we in a position to do anything about it because we do not have correspondingly large tonnage in our hands belonging to Pakistan. At the same time, Sir, so as to avoid further supplementaries I may add that there was a report that these ships had been sold by Pakistan. Immediately this Press report came, our Government lodged a very strong protest and we also made enquiries through the Ministry of External Affairs and we found that they have not been sold to any private parties but our Deputy High Commissioner did find that some of them were being used by the East Pakistan Government presumably I think so that they do not become completely useless. Finally this I am adding though I have not been asked that we have taken a very strong position that when discussions will take place between the Pakistan Government and the Indian Government under the Tashkent Agreement over normalisation of relations and the question of resumption of civil air services, this matter must also be brought up during those discussions.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, when these vessels between India and Pakistan were exchanged, what happened to the cargo which was being carried by these vessels?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I think they were exchanged in October 1966; I am not absolutely certain.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: The question is regarding cargo.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I thought there were two questions. Regarding

cargo, we have not got back the cargo from Pakistan.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, May I ask the Minister whether he knows that a big consignment of newsprint which was meant for the 'Current' magazine and other newspapers was impounded by Pakistan and not returned to India, and has at least the Pakistan Government paid the money value for the newsprint which has been seized?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I will have to call for the information.

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : मैं जानना चाहूंगा सरकार से कि जब पाकिस्तान इन जहाजों को लौटाने से इनकार कर रहा है, तो क्या सरकार ने यह उचित नहीं समझा कि सोवियत रूस को इस बात का पता चला दे; क्योंकि ताशकन्द ऐग्रीमेंट जो हम लोगों ने साइन किया, वह उनकी अध्यक्षता में हुआ था या उनकी मौजूदगी में हुआ था। क्या यह सरकार उचित नहीं समझती है कि उनके जरिये इन जहाजों को वापस कराने की कार्यवाही करें ?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I have no doubt that the good offices of the Soviet Government are in regard to this as in regard to other so many matters in our relations with Pakistan and the Tashkent Agreement, being considered but I cannot give any specific information on that. If the hon. Member wants the information, I shall ask for notice.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: It was reported some time back that some of the commodities that were coming in these ships have been unloaded at Karachi and sold or auctioned. May I know from the Minister whether this report is correct? Secondly, I want to know from the Minister whether those ships which have been returned were carrying very valuable machinery for the heavy projects of this country and whether all the machinery has been returned by Pakistan or not.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: Pakistan has offloaded Indian cargo from the ships and we also in turn have done the same thing from the Indian ships which were carrying cargo to Pakistan as well as from the neutral ships which were carrying cargo to Pakistan and which touched our ports. Regarding machinery I have to ask for notice. The information is not with me at the moment.

*231. [The questioner (Sardar Ram Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1865 infra.]

चुनाव याचिकायें

*232. श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौर-

ड़िया : † ११

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी :

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह ब्रार :

क्या विधि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले आम चुनाव में प्रत्येक राज्य में बरती गई अनियमितताओं के विरुद्ध कितनी चुनाव याचिकायें प्रस्तुत की गई ;

(ख) कितनी चुनाव याचिकायें मुख्यतः (i) भ्रष्ट तरीकों तथा (ii) अधिकारियों द्वारा नियमों की अवहेलना किए जाने से संबंधित हैं ;

(ग) चुनाव याचिकाओं का शीघ्र निपटारा करने के लिये क्या विशेष व्यवस्था की जा रही है ; और

(घ) क्या मतदाता सूचियों में नकली मतदाताओं के पंजीकरण के विरुद्ध कोई प्रक्रियायें प्राप्त हुई थी, और यदि हा, तो किन-किन राज्यों से और उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

‡[ELECTION PETITIONS

*232. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:†
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH
BHANDARI:
SHRI NARINDAR SINGH
BRAR:

Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions filed against irregularities committed in the last General Election in each State;

(b) the number of election petitions which are mainly concerned with (i) corrupt practices; and (ii) disregard of rules by officers;

(c) what special arrangements are being made for early disposal of election petitions; and

(d) whether any complaints against registration of bogus voters in the electoral rolls were received, and if so, from which States and what action has been taken thereon?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 as amended by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1966 all election petitions have to be filed before the High Court or the Judicial Commissioner's Court of the State or Union territory concerned, the number of election petitions referred to in part (a) of the question and the number of election petitions referred to in sub-part (i) and sub-part (ii) of part (b) of the question are not yet available. Election Commission has, however, information that in the State of Jammu and Kashmir the number of election petitions challenging the assembly elections in that State is 25; the Election Commission also understands that the number of election petitions challenging parliamentary (Lok Sabha) elections in that State is

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. M. Chordia.