

or old. Therefore, in the absence of any standardisation in this country, this kind of variation is bound to be there.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : Even in the private sector itself, the all-India average in the transmission and distribution losses and in the energy consumed in the station auxiliaries work out to 14-80 per cent, and 3-35 per cent, in the public sector itself. May I know why there is this variation in the public sector itself?

DR. K. L. RAO : The private sector services only in concentrated urban areas whereas the public sector has to carry the power for long distances and in the rural areas, etc. Therefore the transmission losses are more naturally in the case of the public sector than in the private sector. With regard to the station auxiliaries losses, there is not much difference but in the public sector, of course it is a little more because it has thermal stations which always have a more percentage of losses at station auxiliaries than the hydro power stations.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: What steps have been taken by the Government to reduce this variation both in the private as well as in the public sector? Have any steps been taken or are they considering them?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that the transmission losses average 15 per cent, in India whereas in the advanced countries and in countries where electrical developments are good the transmission loss is something like 10 per cent. It is our aim to do that. We have drawn the attention of the various State Governments to this. We have made some suggestions and also written to them. We have to develop higher voltage system to avoid losses. I think at the end of the Fourth Plan it is very likely that our losses will go down.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : May I know, Sir, whether these energy losses affect the cost tariff structure of the Electricity Boards? If so, what steps are being taken to minimise these losses at the earliest?

DR. K. L. RAO : Naturally, transmission loss means extra cost, because so much energy is lost in transmission. It means a

less amount of power available for consumption and therefore the rates will be higher. We have taken it up and, as I submitted, there are a number of steps which we are trying to take and a few of them are, development of high voltage lines, development of various devices aimed at cutting down these transmission losses, for example the development of high-power stations, frequency of stations and so on, so that these transmission losses may be reduced as much as possible. It is our aim to reduce it from our present 15 per cent, to 12 per cent.—10 per cent, is the ideal—at least to 12 per cent, by the end of the Plan.

BRITISH INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

SHRI UMASHANKAR
DIKSHIT :
(SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of British investment in plantations and industries in our country as at the close of the year 1947, 1955 and 1964;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange allowed for remittance abroad as return on these investments during the year 1964-65 and

(c) the amount of profits re-invested in India during the year 1964-65

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) The information is available as at the end of June, 1948, end of 1955 and of 1961 and a statement containing this information is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix LIV, Annexure No. 48]

(b) A total amount of Rs. 11-28 crores was remitted to the U.K. on account of current and accumulated profits during 1964-65. These figures do not include profits of oil companies. Separate figures for the plantations and other industries are not available.

(c) The information is not yet available.

■ The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Umashankar Dikshit.

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT :

It is clear from the information given in the Statement and the present information the Minister has given to the House that there has been a specially favourable policy adopted in the matter of investments from the U. K. Have the Government considered the advisability of reconsidering their policy in the matter of these arrangements favourable to the U. K., and if they have not done so, will they consider this matter?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Sir, U. K. has not any favourable arrangement with us. All foreign investments and all returns on them repatriated are guided in the last few months by an overall policy. Investment from any country is treated on that basis, against the background of that policy. That in a particular year or in a period of years more investments come from the U. K. maybe due to some other reasons, but the fact is that from other countries also, during the same period, investments have been going up, and therefore the question if any policy revision in respect of U.K. for this reason alone does not arise.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know, Sir, why the Government is so ill-informed that it does not have figures for 1962, 1963 and 1964 as far as foreign investments in plantations and industries are concerned? Why this backwardness on the part of the Government?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is not due to backwardness but due to the technical problem involved in this matter. The Reserve Bank goes into a periodical review. It cannot do it every year, because the time and labour involved is enormous, and therefore periodically it reviews the position as on a particular date. The last review was in 1965. It may be that another review is in the offing and when that review takes place and the information is collected, we will bring—the figures up to date.

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या मंत्री जी बताएंगे कि इंडिया में कितनी ब्रिटिश कम्पनियाँ काम करती हैं।

श्री बी० आर० भगत : इसकी सूचना मिले तो नम्बर मैं दे सकूंगा।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I do not know why he says that the labour is not

worth while the result. Now I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the Plantation Inquiry Committee, when it made its report, said very many things against these foreign plantation owners including their attempts to suppress various relevant economic data and withhold them from Government. In view of this fact may I know, Sir, why the companies were not asked to furnish the information required as in this Question, and if they were not asked, why, and I should also like to know whether it is not a fact that these are getting extraordinary advantages here even in the present situation, and in view of this fact whether the demand has come from the working class, from the plantation labour, that these foreign owned plantations should be nationalised and, to begin with, remittances abroad by them in the present emergency should be stopped?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The answer to the last question does not arise, because he has given an opinion. As for getting the information we ask them to get from time to time whatever information we require and give us the information.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No Sir, they suppress facts. That is why I raised the Plantation Inquiry Committee's Report, in which they have made very severe criticism of the manner in which they deal with the requests for information, etc. asked for from these foreign-owned plantations. I want to know whether at least a single foreign owned tea plantation in this country was asked to furnish the relevant data or material as required in this Question, whether the Reserve Bank asked for it.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : So far as the question of Plantation Inquiry Committee's Report is concerned, whatever they have recommended, we will take note of it. If the hon. Member means that they withhold information from us, well, I do not agree with him. Whatever information we want, about investments, about profits repatriated and every other thing, we get it from them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you get it from the Bank, and the Bank is making a periodical assessment.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He said that whatever information he asks for, he gets it. Then do I understand that for the year for which the information has not been supplied to this House the information was not asked for from these foreign plantations?

MR. CHAIRMAN : A periodical assessment is made by the Reserve Bank and this is their information.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The point is this. When Mr. Krishnamachari was the Minister of Commerce and Industry he issued certain circulars that as and when investments were made by foreign concerns the information should also be supplied to Government. Government have other agencies of knowing it also. Now it appears that for a number of years the information did not reach the Reserve Bank or other appropriate authorities under the Government. It requires a better explanation than what has been given to this House.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: No, Sir, as I said, in the nature of things, for the overall economy, we have to have periodical assessments, when we tabulate and analyse the materials supplied; everything is done. Even in the Statement, Sir, we have given how much investment took place in Industries in different years, and we have given it up to 1964 in the Statement. The hon. Member can see it.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Even there for the figures you have given, you say that they denote 'Approvals accorded'.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Yes, they are approvals of investments. If they plough back the profits of their branches in India, it is different, but whatever investments come from outside need our approval, and these we have given, and this is the only way by which we come to know the total investments coming from abroad and it can only be done in a scientific manner such as this.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, I gave notice of the Question and I have been allowed only one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am very sorry. Next Question,

ALLOTMENT TO DELHI RESIDENTS IN LODHI HOTEL

f SHRI M. AJMAL KHAN:t ,206

J SHRI OM MEHTA:

'J] SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

(SHRI G. M. MIR:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether residents of Delhi were allotted rooms in the Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi, during the period from January-August, 1965;

(b) if so the number of such allotments; and

(c) the average period of occupancy by these allottees?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA) (a) to (c) The Lodhi Hotel was being administered as a hostel upto the 14th September, 1965 under the Directorate of Estates. Allotments were open both to the government servants and others whether they were residents of Delhi or were casual visitors to the capital. No separate record was maintained in respect of the allotments made to the residents of Delhi and casual visitors. It may, however, be stated that the number of government servants posted in Delhi who took allotment in the Lodhi Hotel on a long term basis was very small. Only 26 government servants posted in Delhi were occupying accommodation in the Lodhi Hotel on the 15th September, 1965 when its management was transferred to the Janpath Hotels Ltd. They were given alternative accommodation.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I, know. Sir, if accommodation in Lodhi Hotel was allotted to Government servants who had separate Government accommodation in their names ?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA : I have no idea. If any specific case is brought to my notice I shall look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

•The question was actually asked on the floor of this House by Shri M. Ajmal Khan.