

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Because of the peculiar problems in Kerala, priority treatment to Kerala is required. Because only 562 kilometres of railway line has been given to Kerala during these Plans, priority treatment is required there and it is justified.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The hon. Member has made a very powerful plea for doing it.

*222. (The questioner (Shri A. B. Vajpayee) was absent. For answer vide cols. 1274—78 infra.)

KANDLA FREE PORT

*223. SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state—

(a) what are the objects of developing the duty-free trade area ten miles around the Kandla port; and

(b) the reasons for which only the big business have been invited for investment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) A Free Trade Zone in an enclosed area of half a square mile for setting up export oriented industries is being developed at Kandla. The main objectives in establishing the Free Trade Zone are:

(i) To promote Indian exports and earn foreign exchange.

(ii) To bring about fuller utilisation of the facilities already developed at Kandla Port.

(b) No, Sir. Everybody is free to apply for an area in the Zone with proposals which are considered on merits. So far, about 32 proposals have been approved and most of the parties are ordinary businessmen and entrepreneurs of the small-scale and medium-scale nature.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: The term "free port" in other countries like Singapore, Hong Kong and Amsterdam means

that the goods will be bought and sold freely without the interference of customs. May I know whether the same concept is there in this scheme or it is a different scheme, whether it means only an industrial area where industries will develop within a closed area?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: This is not a free port. It is a free trade zone. The difference is that this will be merely an enclosed area in a major port where the customs regulations will be waived.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Will the hon. Minister lay on the Table of the House a list of factories approved and the types of goods to be produced, for the information of Members?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, I can say indicatively, because still firm proposals have not been made. The factories and the types of goods are: Ready-made garments, embroidery and cut works, stainless steel utensils, P.V.C, electrical wires and cables, safety razor blades, bicycle components, umbrella parts, pharmaceutical products, multiwall paper, exercise-books and account books, synthetic essential oils, sports goods, tea-bagging plastic bangles, etc.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know the machinery the Government has set up in order to finally determine as to who should be given licences to set up the factories and in what manner it will be ultimately settled, so that in the name of small and medium business, big businessmen do not come in?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There is a Committee, a high-powered one, of Secretaries or representatives of the five Ministries which ultimately decide this. But the main criterion is neither small nor big, but the exportability of the product and the likely foreign exchange to be earned. This is not an area to be developed for one type of

industry or the other. The very fact that it is only 320 acres, in which not more than 150 units are to get it, shows that very large industries have no scope at all.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The position is this. In the beginning he said 'small and medium'. You will have noted it. Now, he says the point is not whether it is small or medium but certain other things, and small industries will not be very much there. Do I understand that in some cases big business concerns would start small industrial units in order to monopolise a certain sector of trade and commerce, and what is the guarantee that here in this case also big business industries or their subsidiaries will not come in?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There is no question of it. If a big businessman brings forward an export-oriented scheme, which is of a small-scale nature which can be accommodated in the zone or a medium-scale industry scheme is there, there is nothing to prevent us from accepting that.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the scheme has been made foolproof as far as chances of smuggling of goods from the free area to the rest of the country are concerned and, if not, whether the Government has considered the advisability of selecting a place like Andamans and Nicobars for their development as a free port?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The first requisite of a free port or a free trade zone rules out Andamans and Nicobars altogether, because a free port or a free trade zone has to be one where entrepreneurs in large numbers are available and find it congenial to work in that atmosphere, where large-sized ships come and go, etc. If trade flows there in the normal way, naturally commercial exports get developed. As far as protection is concerned, we have gone by the international convention, of having a double-barbed electrical

wire with a separate customs post, isolating the free trade zone completely. All necessary precautions are taken, but as the House is aware, this is the first time that this delicate experiment is being tried¹ out there and, therefore, we will be continuously watchful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

सहायक स्टेशन मास्टरों को रात्रि में काम के लिए भत्ता देने के नियम

*२१२. श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सहायक स्टेशन मास्टरों को रात्रि में काम करने के लिये भत्ता देने के बारे में विभिन्न रेलों में विभिन्न नियम प्रचलित हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस विषय में एक-रूपता न लाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

t [RULES FOR NIGHT DUTY ALLOWANCE TO A.S.Ms.

*222. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that varying rules are at present being observed by different Railways in the matter of giving night duty allowance to assistant station masters; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not bringing about uniformity in the matter?]

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम सुभग सिंह) : (क) और (ख) एक बयान सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

†[] English translation