

SHRI C. D. PANDE: May I know the qualifications, technical or administrative, for this office and who is the appointing authority?

DR. K. L. RAO: The appointing authority is the President.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: On whose recommendation is the appointment made?

DR. K. L. RAO: The recommendation comes from the Ministry. With regard to qualifications, Sir, naturally this Corporation deals essentially with the river valley projects and other emergency works, construction works. Therefore the officer must be one who is thoroughly conversant with constructional features and he must have administrative capacity also.

(Interruption)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to know whether the Corporation itself handles all the construction work or it appoints contractors for the purpose of construction work, and, if so, on what basis such contractors are appointed.

DR. K. L. RAO: The organisation takes the responsibility for construction. According to the type of work it may be necessary to give some portion of the work, not the entire work, to some contractors.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, it is a very important post. The amount involved is Rs. 47 crores. That is what the Minister said. May I know whether it all depends on the goodwill of the Minister concerned or the Chairman must have some experience, technical knowledge and other qualifications to be considered for this post? What were the qualifications and technical experience of the ex-Chairman who has recently become the Deputy Home Minister in the Government?

DR. K. L. RAO: For the proper management of this, Sir, I would sub-

mit that technical experience will no doubt be of great assistance.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: It was stated that the post of Chairman was honorary. May I know what other facilities and amenities were given to this Chairman?

DR. K. L. RAO: Sir, the post is either honorary or remunerative. It can be done either way. In the past the post has generally been honorary. On the days he worked he was given a daily allowance of Rs. 20 plus travelling allowance.

(Interruption)

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It has been stated that only some allowance was given for the days he worked. I would like to know what amount was paid by way of allowance during 1963-64 and at what rate it works out per month.

DR. K. L. RAO: Generally, Sir, it works out to Rs. 600 per month by way of daily allowance.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government would confine the appointment of Chairman to civil servants or would they consider even publicmen with business and administrative experience for this appointment?

DR. K. L. RAO: I have already submitted that in view of the fact that the Corporation is essentially engaged on the engineering work, it is better that the Chairman has some experience, engineering and technical experience. But apart from this, administrative ability will be one of the most important criteria for selection to this post.

BANK OF CHINA

*33. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of enquiry into the affairs of the Bank of China

has been received by Government; and

(b) whether a copy thereof will be placed on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The investigation has not yet been completed. The question of the action to be taken will be considered after the investigating officer's report has been received.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the hon. Minister tell us when it was first brought to the notice of the Government that it was necessary to investigate or look into the accounts of the Bank of China, when they started it and how long they are likely to take further, because I myself know that I have been asking questions about this for the last one year? Is this the way in which Government go about doing things during an emergency?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: As is familiar to the hon. Member, it takes time. The hon. Member is not able to realise that the transactions are all entered in a different language, and it is not easy, it has to be deciphered. Originally the investigations were in the hands of the police. Thereafter, a Reserve Bank official has been brought in. Lately I was told by the police that they wanted an auditor as well. The number of papers that they have to go through in a foreign language is considerable and it is not our intention to unnecessarily delay it. But in the circumstances of this case, certainly it is not possible for us to expedite. All that I can tell the hon. Member is that Government have no intention to delay it, and I can add nothing more to it.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Since the hon. Finance Minister has been pleased to say that it is not the intention of the Government to delay it and since this Government has been

at war with China, though it may not be a shooting war just now, may I ask: Is this the way in which a government functions efficiently with regard to an enemy country or a bank belonging to an enemy country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a question to which you can get an answer. This is a sort of comment.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: My question is simple. An enquiry has been going on for one year about the dealings of a bank belonging to a country which we consider to be at war with us. How do Government convince the people that there is really an emergency?

(No reply)

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: I would like to draw your attention to this, Sir. Last year, the hon. Minister gave a statement; in reply to so many supplementaries he said what he repeated today. If there is nothing new to be told to the House, why should the Ministry accept the question? There is nothing new. (Interruptions). Sir, my point is that there is nothing new to be told, they have already said it. Or they do not want to disclose. When they are not in a position to disclose, why waste the time of the House and spend money?

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: I should like to know whether any further progress has been made in the investigation and I should also like to know whether the staff that has been given to the investigating authorities is adequate or they have asked for more staff.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I may mention that at one stage they wanted a bank official. An official has been sent from the Reserve Bank. Lately they mentioned that they wanted somebody with the knowledge of accounts. Those officers are being furnished to them. So, the investigation is going on. Only the results are not yet out.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I point out to the hon. Finance Minister that an assurance was given in this House that the report of this enquiry was expected shortly? How long does this 'shortly' mean?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am not aware of having committed myself to a statement similar to what the hon. Member has mentioned. As I have said, there are physical facts surrounding this particular case because of which expediting the investigation has not been possible and it has to take time. The hon. Member knows about enemy property administration in the former days. All that takes a lot of time because the language in which the business has been transacted is different and a lot of papers have got to be gone into. I have nothing to add further.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: The hon. Minister has said that the enquiry is not proceeding expeditiously because the documents are in a foreign language. May I take it then that the documents of this bank have been maintained in the Chinese language? If so, what is the proportion, and have Government taken now the assistance of Chinese-knowing Indians in the investigation?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, I have not gone into the documents. So, I cannot mention the proportion. The fact is that the bank maintained the accounts in the Chinese language and that is where the difficulty comes in.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether now he will be able to give us an approximate time when this investigation is likely to be completed?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am sorry, Sir; I am not in a position to do so.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Am I to understand from the answers of the Minister that under the present banking

practice, a bank can maintain its accounts in any language it likes and there is no standard procedure to maintain all accounts in the language of the country?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: So far as certain accounts necessary for the purpose of the control that is exercised are concerned, they are maintained in the language that is in use in the country. But the documents into which the police has to go in order to reveal the transactions of the bank, its correspondence with its parent bank, its correspondence with the Chinese nationals who have deposited money, are maintained in the language of that country.

DR. NIHAR RANJAN RAY: Do I understand from the reply given by the hon. Minister that there is no Indian knowing Chinese in this country in the service of the Finance Ministry or the External Affairs Ministry or in the Government? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am afraid the assumption is wrong. People are going into the documents, people who know Chinese.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Do the Government propose to come forward, within a reasonable time, at least with an interim report to inform the House about the trend of the enquiry?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course. If they have some conclusions, they will do it; it is obvious from the reply.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Minister is in a position to assure the House that he will get in touch with the investigating authorities and announce the approximate date of the completion of the enquiry before the House adjourns on May 8?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: It is an assurance which is completely impossible for me to give.