

TERM OF UNION REHABILITATION MINISTRY

*141. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that considering the amount of residuary work in his Ministry, Government propose to extend its term beyond March 31, 1962

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA): No final decision has yet been taken about the future of this Ministry.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether it is a fact that there is some residuary work in this Ministry which has to be considered for its final decision?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Sir, I divide this problem into two parts, the western and the eastern regions. As far as the western region is concerned, most of the the work is complete and a few thousand cases of compensation only remain to be paid, but by and large, about five lakh cases of compensation have been paid and rehabilitation work was completed long ago. Another question which relates to West Pakistan, is in regard to our negotiations with Pakistan. There we have not made much satisfactory progress. Some lockers and safety deposits are to be exchanged between the two Governments today. I hope they are doing it; today is the final date. As regards the eastern region, I would like to make a little detailed statement. As far as Tripura, Assam, Bihar and Orissa, are concerned, there are about ten lakh displaced persons, the work has been completed, and in some of the regions even the Rehabilitation Departments have been closed. But in West Bengal, where we have thirty-two lakh displaced persons, there are still some items which remain to be completed, and we are looking into the residuary problem which has been assessed, in

consultation with the State Government, and I feel that some more time will be required to complete the residuary aspect of the problem in the State of West Bengal.

LEAKAGE OF IMPORT CONTROL POLICY FOR OCTOBER 1961—MARCH 1962

*115. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 27th September, 1961 or thereabout, he received a telegram from a businessman in Calcutta about the leakage of import policy for October 1961—March 1962, of various items including dammarbatu;

(b) whether it was pointed out in the telegram that two businessmen from Delhi were responsible for the leakage;

(c) whether he received a further communication on the subject, dated October 5, 1961, from the same businessman; and

(d) what steps Government took in this case of alleged leakage of import policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) A telegram dated 29th September 1961 was received from Kirana Merchants, Calcutta.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A letter dated 5th October 1961 was received from a party in Calcutta.

(d) A thorough on-the-spot enquiry was made but it was found that the allegations were baseless.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that on the 27th September, 1961 it was pointed out that the import policy with regard to dammarbatu, serial No. 49A-(i), had been leaked out and that speculation on the basis of that was

going on in Calcutta, and also in connection with that the names of the parties who were indulging in speculation were given to the Government?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: These communications, which are mentioned, mentioned certain names but when enquiries were made, all of them said that they were not parties to that letter or telegram.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have got here the signed copy. How can he say that? Now, may I know, Sir, whether the Government has received certain information about the leakage giving the particulars of the commodity in respect of which the policy had been leaked out, and if after publication of the red book it was found out that the information tallied with the policy, and what steps did the Government take to investigate the matter?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: We have investigated it. There are always intelligent speculations about import policy which is to be announced at a given date. As far as these two commodities are concerned, it was fairly well known that the import of dammarbatu would be severely cut, because indigenous supplies in Andamans may develop. Therefore, it was anybody's guess.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether in the information supplied to the Government it was also pointed out that having got the information from Delhi through some official, speculation went on and that it had no connection with intelligent speculation as it is called, and that in that connection the name of a firm at 30/31, Kalakar Street, Calcutta-1, was also given?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The complaint was enquired into and all the allegations were found to be baseless.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, the nature of the enquiry, in what manner the enquiry was held and whether in this connection the signatories of the letter and others were examined and who instituted that enquiry?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The enquiry was made by the Joint Chief Controller in Calcutta and by headquarters staff later on, and all these supposed writers of the telegrams and letters were contacted.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: With your permission, Sir, I lay the letter on the Table of the House. The people have written it under their signatures and they have given their addresses and now they say that they are all fake. I do not know. Now all these papers are here.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, would the Government consider making it a policy on the floor of the House that leakages of import policy would be dealt with on the same level as leakage of secrets and drastically punish, and circularise all concerned?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There is no possibility of leakage because the policy is finalised on the last date of the month and it goes to the press in the night.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that I have made available to the House a document signed by people, with their addresses and so on, may I know, Sir, if the Government would consider . . .

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: We want to know what the proof is that the signatures are genuine.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: People were contacted and they disowned.

APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR, ATOMIC MINERALS DIVISION

*116. SHRI R. G. AGARWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased