

without giving any notice. He changed his programme and therefore they could not do anything. They did not know about it till he arrived there.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That has nothing to do with his disappointment. Maybe the Singapore authorities did not have prior knowledge that he was arriving. But when he arrived there and even when he made it known that he was a member of the Government in a State, he was not treated well. That is the complaint.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: He did not complain. That is all I can say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The whole point is this. She says that he had made no complaint either to our High Commission in Singapore or to the Government here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then how did he complain?

AN. HON. MEMBER: There was nothing here, after he came here.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: other

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU AMAMURTI: Are we to discriminate between individual and individual in this age of democracy? Are there not rules in regard to passports?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do understand this series of questions. Whether it is desirable or not, as the House knows, Singapore and Malaya have been in a state of emergency. We may disagree that there is emergency there; that is a different matter. Therefore, the security officers have to look into these matters as to who is coming and go much more than is normal and assigner arrived whom they did not. That is, they had no previous information. There was no particular reason to help him because he arrived

unexpectedly. And these people in Singapore who often function there do so on behalf of the Government of Malaya because the Government of Malaya accuses, sometimes charges, the Government of Singapore, of not having been careful enough. All these things are there. It is very difficult for us to intervene. As a matter of fact, when this matter came up, there was a good deal of criticism, I regret to say, in the Singapore Press about this matter being raised in India when so many of their people are held up by our Customs in India.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: As far as I know, there has never been any occasion when a Minister of any country complained that he had been treated in this manner in any of our airports. If it were so, I would not have tabled this question. But as far as I know our Customs would not do such things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are always careful in tabling your question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You are quite right, Sir.

*665 and *666. *{The questioner (Shri Lokanath Misra) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 3559-60 infra.}*

SHORTAGE OF COAL AND COTTON IN AHMEDABAD TEXTILE MILLS

*667. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile mills, particularly in Ahmedabad, are experiencing shortage of coal and/or cotton; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to relieve this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b) A note containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) *Cotton*.—There is a general shortage of Indian cotton and the mills throughout the country have been experiencing difficulties in securing the supplies required by them.

Coal.—Representations have been received by the Coal Controller, Calcutta, from individual mills in Ahmedabad area, the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and others reporting that the mills in the Ahmedabad area in general had been suffering for want of coal for some time and were on the verge of closure.

(b) The following steps have been taken to meet the shortage in the supplies of cotton and coal: —

COTTON

- (1) In order to distribute the available supplies of Indian cotton among the various mills in the country equitably a quota system of distribution has been introduced with effect from January, 1960.
- (2) Substantial quantities of foreign cotton are being permitted for import. During the last cotton season (September, 1959—August, 1960) a total quantity of 11.8 lakh bales of foreign cotton was released for import. Immediately after the close of the last season a further quantity of 6 lakh bales, comprising 4' 0 lakh bales, under U.S.P.L. 480 Programme and 2'0 lakh bales from free resources, has been released for import.
- (3) Substantial quantities of cotton stapling 1" and below are being allowed to be imported specially in order to make good the short supplies of Indian cotton.
- (4) Mills capable of using foreign cotton stapling 1-1/16" and above have been required to use more of such cotton so that the pressure on the sup-

plies of Indian cotton might be relieved. For this purpose, increased allocations of such cotton have also been made to mills.

COAL

In order to meet the demand of the cotton textile mills in the Ahmedabad area, arrangements were made to rush supplies by stepping up allotments as follows:

- (1) During April and May, 1960, cotton textile mills situated in that area and having less than 10 days' stock were granted 100% preferential allotments from the outlying coalfields.
- (2) In June, 1960, each case was considered on its merits and special assistance was rendered wherever found necessary.
- (3) During July, 1960, cotton textile mills having less than 10 days' stock on the 1st of the month were again allowed 50% consolidated preferential allotments from the outlying coalfields. Allotments were heavily stepped up from the West Bengal and Bihar fields immediately. Coal movements resumed after the strike and the position had much improved by the end of July.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:] the hon. Minister in a position to assure the House that after the steps that have been taken, there is shortage of neither coal nor cotton in the textile industry in Ahmedabad?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: As far as the shortage of coal is concerned, we always try to ensure that ten days' supply of coal is available and we effected that. We are not able to provide more stock because of the transport difficulties. As for cotton, I suppose there will be no difficulty in the distribution of cotton because the Cotton Control Order has come into effect from 1st. of September.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the transport difficulty the only reason why there is shortage of coal or is it the lack of stocks of coal?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Transport difficulty is the main difficulty. Another difficulty is the disruption of lines because of natural havocs.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if the Millowners' Federation, Ahmedabad, did not complain that certain mills did not have the supply of coal for even two days?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It did happen because some of the mills did not take care to have ten days' stock with them; they ran it out.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES AT BHILAI

*668. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet specialists, designers, engineers and architects have found out the possibility of mass construction of houses in the steel town of Bhilai; and

(b) if so, what are the special features of this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) The report of the Team has not yet been received.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, whether there was discussion between the Bhilai Plant officers and the expert from Russia about this, and whether our officers have given some information to the Government?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Some officers of our C.P.W.D. and the N.B.O. were associated with this Russian team. It is proposed that a team of our engineers would be going to Russia to study the projects on the spot there.

SHORTAGE OF FORMS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

*669. DR. A. N. BOSE: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of various forms in Government offices; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) and (b) There is a general shortage of Government forms mainly due to shortage of paper in the country.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is anything being done to meet this shortage of forms?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Recently Government have allowed importation of 8,800 tons of paper from outside.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Government have said that forms are short because there is no paper. But at the same time we find newsprint selling in Calcutta in the blackmarket. May I know, Sir, whether Government has given any instruction to local authorities to tap some from these sources for supply of necessary forms?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As far as the two questions are concerned, they are not related at all. It is a fact that there is some scarcity. Therefore, we are taking steps to increase production as well as allow import.

*670. [The questioner (Shri P. L. Kureel urj Talib) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3560-61 infra.]

INDO-BRITISH TALKS FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES BY THE HEAVY ELECTRICALS LTD.

*671. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of experts of a British Electrical concern is currently negotiating with the