

sometime later and broadcast in the bulletin which came after that but the railway authorities said later on that by that time the situation had changed and that they were very sorry that the news which had been given some hours earlier had turned out to be incorrect after that particular time.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is not a fact that there were discussions between certain representatives of the P.T.I. and the All India Radio authorities as to the kind of news which should be published for the coverage of the strike situation and whether everything followed in accordance with the discussion that took place and whether truth was suppressed and falsehood spread?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I am not aware of any such discussion.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: I want to know whether about this strike some wrong propaganda was made by the Hsin Hua news agency of China and whether the Government has any machinery by which they keep a record of what China broadcast about the strike?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not arise out of this particular question.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government are of the view that the broadcasts of All India Radio regarding the strike were generally accurate?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Yes. After these complaints I had occasion to go through all the All India broadcasts and they were certainly correct and well-balanced.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that the All India Radio is to be dependent exclusively on the P.T.I. for its news sources, does not the Government think that this monopoly of the Press Trust of India should be broken and that the recommendation of the Press Commission in this connection

should be implemented and All India Radio should be made into a Corporation and so on?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Government also desire that there should be more than one news agency and I understand that two other news agencies are coming up.

RELAXATION OF VISA RULES BY PAKIS-TAN

*341. **SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the recent announcement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, which appeared in the press to the effect that his Government has decided to liberalise the terms of visas of foreigners so as to make their travel in Pakistan less restrictive and easier;

(b) whether the Government of Pakistan has approached him in this connection; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EX-TERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAK-SHMI MENON): (a) Yes, the statement of the Pakistan Foreign Minister was reported in the press soon after a high level meeting at Rawalpindi to discuss passport and visa matters. The decisions reached at that meeting have not yet been divulged. The general impression is that far from liberalizing the existing facilities, the Rawalpindi meeting has decided to tighten up the procedure for the issue of passports with a view to preventing people from going abroad.

(b) and (c). The Government of Pakistan have not approached the Government of India in the matter of liberalisation of visas. Our High Commissioner, Karachi has however been pursuing the matter with the Government of Pakistan who have not so far given any indication as to when they would be prepared to discuss the question with the Government of India.

SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Government take into consideration the troubles of the visa-holder and the heavy expenditure he incurs to be present at the generally distant Headquarters to secure his residence permit when this work can be easily done at a Thana near the checkpost through which he has entered and make a change accordingly?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is for the Pakistan Government to decide these things. All these matters—the hardships experienced by our people—will be taken up when the matter is discussed by the High Commission.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the hon. Minister aware that very serious difficulties have arisen in West Bengal and in that part also with regard to this question of visas and may I know whether in view of the fact that trouble flows from either side the Government have taken any steps with a view to starting some kind of a discussion or consultation with the Pakistan authorities so that matters could be settled in that part properly?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, all that is given in the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MANUFACTURE OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENTS

*320. { **SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI:**
SHRI K. K. SHAH:
SHRI M. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 120 in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st April, 1960 and state:

(a) whether a committee to examine the question of manufactur-

ing agricultural equipments in the country has been appointed; and

(b) if so, whether it has submitted its report?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

FALL IN THE OUTPUT OF TEA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that total output of tea during the year ending May 1960, has registered a sharp fall;

(b) if so, how this year's output compares with those of the previous three years;

(c) what are the reasons for the short fall; and

(d) how and to what extent our foreign trade in tea is likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b). The production of tea during January-May, 1960 was 112 million lbs. as compared to 104 million lbs., 130 million lbs., and 119 million lbs. during the same period of 1957, 1958 and 1959 respectively.

(c) the shortfall in production is mainly due to acute drought in North East India during the early months of 1960.

(d) It is yet too early to assess the effect of the 1960 drought on our export trade in tea.

DEMAND, SUPPLY AND MANUFACTURE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPER

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

(a) what is the latest position of the demand and supply of photographic papers in India;