

it is that he does not have the information?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: What the hon. Member considers relevant may not be considered relevant by others.

DR. R. B. GOUR: But what is the criterion by which you can say that a question as to when these posts were created and why they were abolished, is irrelevant?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: There is no question as to when the posts were created. Many posts were in existence as a temporary measure and when certain economy measures were taken, they were found to be surplus to requirements and therefore those employees had to be retrenched and when posts were found for them, they were absorbed.

DR. R. B. GOUR: But who considered that these posts were excess posts? Were any representatives of the Federation consulted to know whether these posts were surplus or not?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is the function of the Department or administration and the administration had done it. It is no function of the Federation and I do not propose to consult them at all on this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, he need not lose temper about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody need lose temper.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But don't you notice it?

#### GIFTS OF MILK POWDER

\*46. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gifts of milk powder received from

foreign countries and entrusted to private agencies for distribution are very often not distributed free but are sold; and

(b) if so, what preventive steps are being taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Except for isolated cases of misuse, the milk powder received as gifts from foreign countries is distributed by the distributing agencies free of charge and is not sold.

(b) The distributors entrusted with the distribution of milk powder are required to satisfy the District Officers that the milk powder has actually been distributed free.

SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: May I know, Sir, what amount of milk powder was received as gift during the year 1959 and whether the same has been distributed?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, there are two or three schemes under which this milk powder gift is being received. One is under the Indo-U.S.A. Agreement of 1951 and that is dealt with by the Food Ministry. We received in 1959 about 17,64,502 packages and that will come to 5, 45, 19, 927 lbs. With the other arrangement the Health Ministry is concerned; the gifts received in 1959 till October come to 16,592,045 lbs. Also under the CARE programme outside the U.S.A.-India Agreement we have received 10,860 lbs. and under the TCM another 6 lakh lbs.

SHRI P. A. SOLOMON: Which are the agencies which distribute all this milk powder?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There are different agencies. For instance, there is the Chief of CARE Mission in India, Theatre Communications Building, New Delhi; the Representative of the Church World Service, New Delhi; the Director of the National

Christian Council Relief Committee; the National Christian Council of India; the Program Director, CRS, Ludlow Castle Road, New Delhi; the representative of the American Friends Service Committee, Delhi . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI JAI NARAIN VYAS: Has it come to the knowledge of the hon. Minister that licences have been issued to firms all over India for importing milk powder and such milk powder is being sold in every nook and corner of the country?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I am not aware. It concerns the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it not a fact that stocks of milk powder are frequently reported stolen and that such stocks are found in the market for sale?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It may perhaps be that stocks are stolen. As far as we are concerned, only few cases have come to our notice. We enquired into them and suitable action also was taken. In 1958 only two such cases came to our notice and in 1959 as many as 8 cases came to our knowledge.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government has any machinery to find out what quantity goes into the black market, when such reports appear in the Press from time to time?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We have got the necessary machinery and the District Authorities satisfy themselves that the distribution is actually made to the poor and the needy persons of all sections of the community, irrespective of caste, creed or race.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Deputy Minister has the knowledge that in the States adjacent to Delhi, for example, Rajasthan and Uttar

Pradesh, this milk powder can be found in the majority of the markets?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: If the hon. Member can bring any specific instance to our notice, we will certainly enquire into it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Apart from the gift of milk powder, is milk powder imported into India by businessmen also?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Yes, Sir.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know . . .

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I did not follow his reply, Sir.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I said that it is the concern of the Commerce and Industry Ministry. But subject to correction, milk powder is also being imported under licences.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If it is imported, then what is the guarantee that the free gift is not passed over to the businessmen who can sell it and who are importing milk powder?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There are so many ways in which it can be assured that the quantity is being distributed in the way in which it was intended to be. The District Authorities have to pass on certain certificates to the effect that this has been distributed properly.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Is it a fact that lakhs and lakhs of underfed children are being fed by the various agencies with this milk powder?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: That is so, Sir.

SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: May I know if those agencies entrusted with the task of distribution have submitted any report about the distribution of milk powder received during the year 1959?

**SHRI A. M. THOMAS:** The distribution agencies have not submitted any report but they are also concerned with the disappearance into the open market of some quantities that they have given for distribution to the various agencies.

#### HOLDING UP OF S.S. 'VALIANT FAITH' AT PORT SAID

\*47. **SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 455 in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government were put to any loss on account of the holding up of the ship S. S. "Valiant Faith", at Port Said; and

(b) if so, whether responsibility for the loss has been fixed?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS):** (a) and (b) Yes. The amount of loss is estimated at about Rs. 4.92 lakhs. A claim for this amount has been filed in the Egyptian Courts against the owners of the ship. The matter is *sub judice*. Actual loss will be known only after the litigation is completed.

**SHRI HARIHAR PATEL:** May I know why the cargo could not be brought to our country in another ship from Port Said?

**SHRI A. M. THOMAS:** In fact we considered the various alternatives and we found the most feasible proposition—and just to avoid further loss—would be to sell this to the Egyptian Government which was also getting wheat under P.L. 480 from the U.S.A. We had already paid about 90 per cent of the freight to the shipowners and it was not possible to make further advances and bring the wheat here.

#### NAGARJUNASAGAR PROJECT

\*48. **DR. R. B. GOUR:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a speech made by the Minister of Irrigation and Power of Andhra Pradesh to the effect that the State Government would request the Central Government to include Nagarjunasagar Project amongst the Central projects;

(b) whether such a formal request has been received by the Government of India; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken thereon?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI):** (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen Press reports to this effect.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**DR. R. B. GOUR:** Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that even the earlier Cabinet of Andhra Pradesh had been making this request to the Central Government publicly that the Nagarjunasagar Project should be considered a Central Project for all financial purposes?

**SHRI J. S. L. HATHI:** We have not received any such official communication from the Andhra Pradesh Government.

**DR. R. B. GOUR:** Is it a fact that Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh have been raising this question with the Ministry in Consultative Committees and otherwise that this Project must be taken over as a Central Project for purposes of allocation of funds under the head 'Irrigation'?