

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I happened to be in Patna about a month ago in connection with the refugee problem and they took the opportunity of seeing me and I saw them. As to whether they approached the Rehabilitation Minister or the Chief Minister of Bihar, I have no knowledge.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In view of the fact that they could not realise this loan, may I know whether the Government is thinking of writing it off?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Loan is a loan and has to be repaid.

*140. and *141. [*The questioner (Shri Babubhai Chinai) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 977-78 infra.*]

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY AN OFFICIAL OF
THE INDIAN LEGATION AT BEIRUT

*142. DR. A. SUBBA RAO: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official of the Indian Legation at Beirut has been regularly contributing articles to a Delhi English Daily as special Middle East correspondent; and

(b) if so, whether these despatches have been screened by the Ministry of External Affairs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). No. But certain articles have been appearing in the Press written by a previous Press Attache who has resigned from the service.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Has it been written with the previous permission of the Government?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: He is not in service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has left service and he has been writing these articles now, after leaving service—not during the time he was in service.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether there is any difficulty on the part of the Government officials attached to either foreign Embassies or the Government of India and whether there is any ban imposed on them not to contribute articles to newspapers?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Obviously Government officials cannot write articles in this way, unless perhaps they may be on some remote archaeological subject.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What about their contributions on literary subjects?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, on dramatics in Orissa they can write.

REQUIREMENTS AND MANUFACTURE OF
SULPHUR

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

(a) what are India's requirements of sulphur and what are the sources of its supply;

(b) what are the possibilities of the manufacture locally of the entire quantity of our sulphur requirements; and

(c) what is the position of the country in respect of raw materials for the manufacture of sulphur?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The annual requirements of sulphur in the country at present is estimated to be 2,00,000 tons and these are met by imports.