

(a) whether Government have decided to grant a special concession of 25 per cent. on wharfage to exporters using Kandla port, and if so, what are the reasons for giving this concession; and

(b) what is the present tonnage of cargo exported from Kandla port and what would be the approximate tonnage after this concession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, on overseas exports only. This measure is designed to step up such exports through the Kandla Port.

(b) About 1.75 lakh tons per year. It is too early to predict with reasonable accuracy the increase in tonnage consequent on the concession.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the exporters have been consulted, and what would be the expected income because of this concession?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Since it was a matter which would bring relief to the exporters, I do not think there is much need for consultation. But demands are being made on us that we should think on such lines. There is no question of profit, but it is estimated that by the increase in export the loss, which is estimated at Rs. 33,000, would be covered.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know if this will relieve the congestion which is at present there in the Bombay Port?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There is no congestion at the moment in the Bombay Port.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Is there any proposal to approach the Railways to give some relief to persons in respect of freight charges who would use this Port for export-import purposes?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: The hon. Minister said that there is no congestion in the Bombay Port. May I know why this 25 per cent. concession in wharfage is given for the Kandla Port?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: To divert traffic to Kandla Port so that it provides incentive for people to establish industries at Kandla and to provide employment opportunities for people at Gandhidham.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know if similar concessions are going to be offered to other ports?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Kandla Port is coming up. It is a recently established port and we have got to see that the population there is not affected adversely because, as the construction is coming to an end, people may have to leave.

AGE RELAXATION IN FAVOUR OF DISPLACED PERSONS FOR THE POSTS OF JUNIOR CHECKERS IN THE OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

*396. DR. A. N. BOSE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 555 in the Rajya Sabha on December 22, 1958 and state whether any decision has since been reached regarding age relaxation in favour of displaced persons for the posts of junior checkers in the Overseas Communications Service?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. K. PATIL): Yes. It has since been decided to give a maximum of 5 years age relaxation to displaced persons for recruitment to the posts of Junior Checkers in the Overseas Communications Service.

DR. A. N. BOSE: What is the age-limit for ordinary recruitment to the posts of telegraphists?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: There are two sides—the administrative and the operational. So far as the operational side is concerned, the Traffic Branch candidates are normally recruited in the lowest rung as junior checkers. Their ages are from 16 to 21 and a relaxation of five years is given. So far as the other side is concerned, the relaxation is four years

DR. A. N. BOSE: Why is there this difference—four and five years?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Because, I understand, of the qualities that are necessary that their fingers must be nimble in order to operate the system, etc. When a person grows old, I think it is the usual experience that the nimbleness slackens and ultimately it disappears.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Does one year's difference in age make much difference in the nimbleness of fingers?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Yes.

KERALA GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ALLOCATION UNDER LAND RECLAMATION SCHEMES

*397. SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have requested for an increase in the allocation of funds under Land Reclamation Schemes during the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, which are the schemes proposed to be taken up during the Plan and their estimated costs; and

(c) whether the Planning Commission propose to include these schemes in the Second Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA):

(a) The State Plan of Kerala does not

include any provision for Land Reclamation Scheme nor any proposal in this respect has been received.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Is it not a fact that some of the schemes taken up are rightly chargeable under Reclamation and has any representation been made to the Agriculture Ministry to that effect?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No, Sir. The Kerala Government has submitted no scheme to the Centre under the Land Reclamation Scheme.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: It is a fact that the schemes known as Kattampally, Koothanad and Kayankulam Reclamation Schemes have come before the Food and Agriculture Ministry in some form—they may not be under 'Reclamation', but in some other form—and that assistance has been asked for?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: They come under 'Land Development'. I am answering the next question. This Koothanad and the other schemes which the hon. Member mentioned come under Land Development not under land reclamation Schemes.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: I refer to Thannirmukham and Kattampally schemes which are, in effect, reclamation of swampy lands and making them fit for cultivation. Such things coming under Reclamation Schemes are chargeable under 'Reclamation' and to that effect, assistance has been asked for. Has the Government received such representation?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It will be answered. The next question is about Minor Irrigation. I am prepared to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanan Nair, please put the next question.