

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT, 1957

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI E. N. DATAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 479 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs:—

(i) Notification No. 40/5/58(I)-Delhi, dated the 22nd August, 1958, publishing the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Determination of Final Issue Rate of Water) Rules, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-909/58.]

(ii) Notification No. 40/5/58-(II)-Delhi dated the 22nd August, 1958 publishing the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Determination of Cost of Disposal of Sewage) Rules, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-910/58.]

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT, 1939

Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Declarations of Exemption under the proviso to section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939:—

(1) No. 1/21/58-F.I., dated the 12th April, 1958. (6 Declarations)

(2) No. 1/23/58-F.I., dated the 19th April, 1958. (1 Declaration)

(3) No. 1/25/58-F.I., dated the 30th April, 1958. (1 Declaration)

(4) No. 1/28/58-F.I., dated the 29th May, 1958. (5 Declarations)

(5) No. 1/32/58-F.I., dated the 27th June, 1958. (2 Declarations)

(6) No. 1/36/58-F.I., dated the 9th August, 1958. (1 Declaration)

(7) No. 1/35/58-F.I., dated the 18th August, 1958. (1 Declaration)

(8) No. 23/20/58-F.I., dated the 27th August, 1958. (1 Declaration)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-921/58 for (1) to (8).]

NOTIFICATION PUBLISHING AN AMENDMENT IN THE CUSTOMS DUTIES DRAWBACK (IVORY PRODUCTS) RULES, 1957

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 43(B) of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. No. 742, dated the 30th August, 1958, publishing an amendment in the Customs Duties Drawback (Ivory Products) Rules, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-922/58.]

MOTION REGARDING FOOD SITUATION

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move:

"That the food situation in the country be taken into consideration."

Sir, I rise to speak at a time when the gloom which had enveloped the food situation appears to be scattering and there is a vision of hopeful twilight. Prices of foodgrains in some of the States, for example, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are on a downward trend. Let us hope that with the co-operation of the leaders of the different groups we shall be successful in bringing about the advent of the dawn which may dispel the difficulties that have surrounded the food situation

Now, Sir, the food situation, as has been often mentioned in this House, divides itself into various parts—long term, short-term and immediate. I will try to deal with these different aspects, though not as fully as I would wish to do. Now, Sir, the most effective way for a country to solve its food situation is to produce more. Agricultural production alone can solve the food problem of the country. No country can depend for any length of time on the import of foodgrains, and more so India, which is traditionally an agricultural country.

Now to begin with, I shall try to take the House into confidence as to what we have done with regard to our agricultural production. There is a misapprehension even among the knowledgeable people that the area under foodgrains has been going down, that there has been a shift from the area under foodgrains to that under cash crops. I would like to mention some figures in this respect. In the year 1949-50, the area under foodgrains, i.e., cereals and pulse, was 245.3 million acres. In 1956-57, this area has increased to 275.4 million acres. In other words, there has been an absolute increase of 30 million acres under cereals and pulses. The percentage increase is 12.2 per cent. The area under commercial crops has also increased. In 1949-50, the area under cash crops was 41.8 million acres. In 1956-57, it has increased to 57.6 million acres. There has been an absolute increase of 15.8 million acres or 37.7 per cent. Crop-wise, the increase in the case of sugarcane has been 39.5 per cent., cotton 63.4 per cent., jute 64.1 per cent. and groundnut 36.8 per cent. The region where there has been a remarkable shift from foodgrains to cash crops is the five Districts of Western U.P., particularly Meerut and Muzaffarnagar, where considerable areas under wheat have gone over to sugarcane. Now this raises a somewhat important question of foodgrains *versus* cash crops. Foodgrains are very important for the economy of our country. There can be no two

opinions that we must be self-sufficient in foodgrains and we must produce, if possible, something more for export. But cash crops are equally important. Upon the production of cash crops depends the economy of the farmer. Cash crops are more remunerative. And if cash crops are given a secondary place, the farmer's economy will suffer. Cash crops also supply raw products for the factories. On a rough estimate I found that nearly two-thirds of our foreign exchange earnings were either from the export directly of the primary product from the farm or from the agricultural component in the manufactured goods, for instance, raw jute in the case of manufactured jute products and cotton in the case of textiles. So both for the economy of the farmer as also for the economy of the country, cash crops play a very important part. Any policy which denigrates cash crops will not be in the national interest. Our future policy should be to produce more on the same acre of land, i.e., we must take to intensive cultivation both in regard to foodgrains as also in regard to cash crops. A stage of balancing has come when shifting from one to another will not be in the interest of the country. That is the first point that I wanted to make clear. There has also been a considerable amount of misapprehension about the increase in our agricultural production. It is often said that agriculture has failed. For the First Five Year Plan and the Second Five Year Plan we had fixed certain targets. Let us see to what extent those targets have been fulfilled. There is also the experience of the world behind us. Agricultural production has certain limitations. It can go up but it cannot go up to an unlimited extent like industries. If you want to double the production of iron and steel, you can put up two factories in place of one but in agriculture you have to deal with the mass of people. There are also other limitations like seasonal limitations, climatic limitations, particularly in a country like ours where 80 per cent. of land has to depend upon rainfall. Experience all over the

[Shri A. P. Jain.]

world has shown that an annual increase of 3 per cent. or a little more, is quite a reasonable increase. Here again I would like to give some figures to the House. Our first Five Year Plan began in 1950-51. In the three years preceding the First Plan, that is, 1947-48 to 1949-50, the production of cereals was 52·6 million tons per year. That was the average. I have taken the last 5 years for working out what are known as 'moving targets'. The five years between 1953-54 and 1957-58 are typical of Indian agriculture. They contain two good years when the crop yields were higher, namely, 1953-54 and 1956-57

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh): 1954-55 too was a good year.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I am coming to that. I am giving my opinion. These five years contain 2 bad years—1955-56 and 1957-58—when our production was less than 65 million tons. The year 1954-55 I put as an average year in which the production was more than 65 million tons but less than 68 million tons. Now this fairly well represents the rotation in production of the Indian crop. The average for the three years 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56 works out to 67·1 million tons, that is . . .

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: May I ask him to be quite clear? He said if we take the 5 years 1953-54 to 1957-58, the average production would amount to 65 million tons. What is he talking now?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I did not say that. What I said was that a production below 65 million tons I take as a poor production. A production above 68 million tons I take as a good production and a production between 65 and 68 million tons I take as the average production.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: What is the actual average of these 5 years?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I am coming to that. The average for the 3 years 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56 works out to 67·1 million tons. There is an increase of 28 per cent. over the production in the three years preceding the Plan.

SHRI J. S. BISHT (Uttar Pradesh): What is the total for the years 1954-55 to 1956-57?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: 67·1 million tons per year or an increase of 28 per cent.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Has he taken the years 1953-54 to 1955-56 or 1956-57 also?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I have taken the first 3 years, namely, 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56 and the average works out to 67·1 million tons per year. That is an increase of 28 per cent., over the average of 3 years preceding.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO (Mysore): May I interrupt? I would like him to clear up one point. The figures he is now giving considerably vary from the figures that have been given in this pamphlet.

I am just reading two sentences only:

"In 1953 the total gross production of cereals was 49·2 million tons. In 1957 the production had gone up to 57·25 million tons."

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The hon. Member is referring to cereals only. I am referring to all foodgrains—cereals and pulses—and if he looks at page 15 of the White Paper, he will get figures of yearly production.

MR CHAIRMAN: They are all working mathematical calculations and taking down notes except our Communist friends who are not taking down any notes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA. (West Bengal): We will see the confusion developing as he speaks.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: In the 3 years beginning from 1954-55, the production averages to 67.2 million tons or again there is an increase of 28 per cent. In the 3 years beginning from 1955-56 and ending in 1957-58—because 1957-58 was a bad year, rather a very bad year—the average production was 65.5 million tons, an increase of 25 per cent. All these figures go to indicate that as compared to the average production during the 3 years preceding the Plan, the average production in any three successive years between 1953-54 and 1957-58 has been more than 25 per cent. This is not a bad record. If we take the cash crops, in the case of jute the production in 1949-50 was 30.9 million bales. In 1957-58 it was 40.9 million bales or an increase of 32.3 per cent. In cotton the increase was 42.4 per cent. In sugarcane the increase was 35.4 per cent. and in the case of groundnut 26.3 per cent. These increases are by no means insignificant, but nonetheless it must be admitted that agricultural yields have not come up to the requirements of the country. The Five Year Plan has developed certain stresses and strains in our economy on account of deficit financing, developmental expenditure, etc., which have very greatly increased our demands and while it is a fact that the agricultural production has been going up and going up appreciably, it is also a fact that the agricultural production has not been able to come up to the requirements of the country.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Which was going fast, the rate of population or the rate of agricultural production?

MR CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is important.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Rate of agricultural production is going faster than the rate of human production.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then why is it that wheat is growing especially in big areas?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about rate of population increase.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Human production I said.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I don't use such absurd language. I said rate of population growth.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Thank you very much for the compliment.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): In both fields he is doing nothing.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why does he think it is a compliment?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: From you anything is a compliment. Agricultural production has been going up by about 3.5 or 4 per cent. and population has been going up by about 1.5 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Will you stop for a little while?

RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY SHRI MORARJI DESAI IN U.S.A.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am thankful to you. I would call the attention of the Chairman and the Prime Minister to the statement made by the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in a radio interview in Washington. The statement made by the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in a radio interview in Washington is in defiance of the Bandung principles and the declared policy of the Government of India in regard to the Chinese People's Republic's inalienable rights to the off-shore islands of Quemoy and Matsu. I have got the press cutting. It shows that the Finance Minister completely ignored the stand taken by the Prime Minister in his press conference here. He did not have a word of criticism against the aggressive action. On the contrary