

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Since erosion of the coastline at Cannanore where the barrack is situated is so serious, what steps do the Government propose to take immediately to check jhat erosion?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Generally these schemes are prepared by the State Governments.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: This is a defence area, a cantonment under the Central Government jurisdiction.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: would For that I require notice.

ASSISTANCE FROM DUTCH GOVERNMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

*481. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether the Dutch Government has offered economic assistance to India for any of India's development projects; if so:—

(a) which are the projects that will be assisted; and

(b) what is the extent of the assistance offered?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). The Netherlands Minister of Agriculture presented to the Prime Minister two memoranda during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the Hague. The Memoranda contain offer of (i) financial and expert assistance for the establishment of an advanced training centre for work in hides and skins flaying, curing, tanning and the manufacture of shoes at Bakshi-ka-talab near Lucknow, U.P., and (ii) financial support for the operation of a pilot scheme for the reclamation of saline soils in the north coastal area of Saurashtra (Bhal area).

The Netherlands Government have earmarked a sum amounting to approximately 6,50,000 guilders (Rs. 8,12,500) for the training centre at

Bakshi-ka-talab and about 8,50,000 guilders (Rs. 10 lakhs) for the execution of the project for the Bhal area in Saurashtra.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are there any experts from the Netherlands Government working in India at present?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Both these schemes have been initiated under the F.A.O. with Netherlands experts working in them.

GOVERNMENT STAFF CARS IN DELHI

*482. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Government staff cars in Delhi at present; and

(b) whether Government propose to make any reduction in the number of these cars, and if so, by how many?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) 112.

(b) It is proposed to reduce the number of staff cars by two.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know what was the number of staff cars in the year 1948 or 1957, at least aa idea?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am sorry I have not got the figure here.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether these are meant only for high officials or whether they are meant for other people also who are working in the offices?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are essentially provided for the type of work, not for the type of officers. As a matter of fact, with the growing activities of the Government, with conferences and meetings, both at national and international levels, with all types of work arising out of the

Second Plan, a large number of officers have got to move about to many places, and hence the need for these staff cars.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are they not meant for officers to come from their homes to the offices?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: In certain cases they have got to come from their homes to the places of meetings and have to go back to their homes.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the number of luxurious cars which are running as staff cars with the Government of India?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not know whether any luxurious cars are there, but I will require notice to ascertain this.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: If you take horse power as the criterion, what is the number of staff cars having more than 16 h.p. engines?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The make of the car is approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the staff cars purchased for the various Ministries shall have to be of the given make, and if any exception has to be made, it has to be made with the concurrence of that Ministry.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: What is the number of such cars?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not know whether there are any such cars which could be called luxurious.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the family members of the officers are also entitled to use them?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not aware of any family members using them without payment, but the officials themselves are entitled to use for official work.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is it not true that even some of the Ministers

are seen coming to Parliament using these staff cars?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are entitled to it on official work.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether there is any arrangement in Connaught Circus to find out after six o'clock whether there is any staff car parked before cinema houses and if so what are the results of such enquiry?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If the hon. Member has noticed any such case, he should have also seen and ascertained whether there is any office situated near the cinema house or whether there could have been some other official work for which this car was taken there.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not true that payment is made by the officers or the persons concerned when they use the staff car for private purposes?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If any staff car is requisitioned for use on private purpose, charges for the same are realised and the payment is made by the user.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: May I know the number of staff cars attached to each Ministry?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That will be a long list but I can give it to him if that is required.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Why, there are only 112 cars we are told.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There are only 112 cars, but details of these Ministrywise will make a long list.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: May I know what is the administrative control over these cars?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The administrative Ministry concerned has got

the control over the cars and an officer not below the rank of Under Secretary is responsible for the allotment of the cars.

SHRI P. C. BHAN J DEO: May I know what is the lowest rank of civilian officer who is entitled to use staff car and for travel on official purpose within what distance?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If required for an official purpose, a member of the Class IV staff also is entitled to use the car if he has to be sent on official duty.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have got a simple question; the hon. Minister will kindly answer it. I want to know the total petrol consumption per month collectively by all these cars.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a matter of calculation.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: One point has to be made clear to the House. All these staff cars are not controlled by the Transport Ministry. It was some time back that an arrangement was agreed to and the various Ministries were asked to give the control over running repairs etc. of those cars to the Transport Ministry so that we may be able to supervise them properly. We wrote to all the Ministries concerned but consequently it was found that the Ministries felt that the cars kept at their disposal should be controlled and maintained by them and we did not succeed in our proposal to get all the cars transferred to the Transport Ministry. So, the matter was placed before the Cabinet and it was ultimately decided that the different Ministries should own their cars and keep the control over them except the maintenance part of it. It was suggested that the maintenance should be done by the Transport Ministry which we are doing. Therefore, all the information that the hon. Members are asking for, it is not possible for the Transport Ministry to give. If any hon. Member wants such information, he will have to address

the question to the various Ministries concerned.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: It is proposed to reduce the cars from 112 to 110. May I know which are the Ministries that have offered to surrender them?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: One I think is the Planning Commission and the other is the Rehabilitation Ministry.

DR. R. P. DUBE: How are these cars maintained? Are there workshops with different Ministries?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The work-f shop of the Civil Aviation Department is utilised for the purpose of maintenance work on these cars.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: How many of these cars are of foreign make?

(No reply)

*483 and *484. [The questioner (Shri Maheswar Naik) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 3582-3583 infra.]

IMPORT AND INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION OF STORES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

*485. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which various kinds of stores required for the maintenance and construction of telecommunications system were imported during the years 1954, 1955 and 1956;

(b) to what extent such stores were produced indigenously during each of these years; and

(c) what further advancements in keeping with the Government policy to reduce imports of such stores, are proposed to be made this year?

"THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.