

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, Sir, the matter is still under investigation.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of the fact that about Rs. 50 lakhs worth of goods are frozen in transit, and the entire industry will be crippled if the Government takes a longer time to take a decision in the matter?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I think, Sir, human lives are more valuable than Rs. 50 lakhs, and we will have to take ample precautions and will see whether these goods are to be released or are to be destroyed.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether all these consignments have been booked by one and the same person, and if not, may I know who are the persons who have booked these consignments?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is not by one and the same person. It is by different parties, but all from Sivakasi and a few from others, for example the Lakshmi Cape Works, the South India Paper Cape Industries, the National Fireworks, the Muthuswami Fire Industries. These are the important ones.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SMUGGLING OF MILK POWDER

♦547. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk powder is smuggled into Bombay City from Madras by rail by being booked as article admissible for booking; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to prevent such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) There were three such cases detected by Railways in 1956 and 2 in 1957 up to 24th August, 1957.

(b) The prevention of such smuggling is essentially a matter for the State Government who have imposed the ban. However, Railway inspecting officials have been instructed to make surprise checks at stations and to examine packages offered for booking, if suspected to contain milk powder.

UNSPENT BALANCE OF ACCOUNT UNDER CENTRAL ROAD FUND IN MADRAS

*553. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of unspent balance in the account of the State of Madras in the Central Road Fund on 31st March, 1957;

(b) whether there is any co-ordination between the Centre and the State in the expeditious utilisation of the Fund; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to devise and utilise promptly the unspent balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Rs. 78-14 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The utilisation of the balance is the concern of the State Government. The position is, however, reviewed by the Government every year and the State Government are asked to expedite the utilisation of the balance, if necessary.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

♦554. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: