

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the possibility of oil cakes being used as cattle feed and the likelihood of cattle fodder falling short of requirement was considered before Government decided to allow these exports?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: This question is doubtless considered by the Food Ministry who advise us in this matter.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Has it come to the notice of Government that the interests concerned have represented that this is going to affect the cattle feed situation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am not aware of such a condition, Sir.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the quota is fixed on the production or on the surplus **over** approximate consumption in the country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: On the production minus requirement, which is surplus.

JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE U.S.S.R.

*279. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of journalists from India who accompanied the Prime Minister to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to cover his visit; and

(b) whether they visited the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the invitation of that Government or they got individual assignments from their respective concerns?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). No journalist accompanied the Prime Minister to the U.S.S.R. but, on the occasion of the Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union, twelve Indian journalists were invited by the Soviet News Agency. They went ahead of the Prime Minister and, later accompanied him during his tour.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know whether the Soviet News Agency invited these twelve Indian journalists in the normal course or were they specifically invited for covering the tour of the Prime Minister in the U.S.S.R.?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: I am afraid I cannot say what was the precise language that was used in the invitation but the Ambassador informed us that the Tass Agency would be very happy if a few Indian journalists visited the U.S.S.R.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I add, Sir, that there is no doubt at all that they were invited because the Prime Minister was going there.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know whether the invitation was extended through the External Affairs Ministry or through representative organisations like the A.I.N.E.C. and the Federation of Working Journalists?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: The invitation was extended through the external Affairs Ministry.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: In that case, may I know the standards that were laid down by the E.A. Ministry for the selection of these journalists?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Reference was made to the E.A. Ministry and later to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. The representative of the Tass Agency suggested certain names which were considered by both these Ministries and I believe a list was drawn up. I do not know what sort of standards were laid down; these Ministries were, if I may say so, informally consulted—and rightly so—and it was not for the Ministries concerned to choose.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Can I take it, therefore, that the Tass Agency drew up a list of its own selected journalists which was sent to the E.A. Ministry for consideration?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I said that the Agency had some kind of a list which that Agency wanted these two Ministries to consider or, may be, give suggestions. The responsibility was that of the Tass Agency but we were not by-passed in that regard.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, did the Ministries at any time consult any of the journalists' organisations in the country before finalising the names?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: So far as I know, not in this instance.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: May I know why no representative of the 'Ganat-antra' was selected?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI ASHOK CHANDA'S REPORT

*280. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to starred question No. 17 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August 1954 and state what action Government have taken so far on the recommendations made in Shri Ashok Chanda's report?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS {SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU}: The principal recommendations made by Shri A. K. Chanda related to the existing arrangements for financial scrutiny and control. After careful consideration of these recommendations, in consultation with the former Comptroller and Auditor General, Government have decided, as soon as the administrative arrangements and the necessary trained manpower can be developed:

(a) to bring about a complete separation between Audit and Accounts; and

(b) to adopt arrangements for internal financial scrutiny and control similar to those which obtain in the U.K.

! Experimental arrangements in both J directions have already been introduced in a few Ministries. Steps have also been taken to increase substantially the powers delegated to Ministries and Heads of Departments to create posts and to sanction expenditure without prior reference to the Ministry of Finance.

Other recommendations made by Shri Chanda related to matters of less urgency. Those, however, found acceptable are already being implemented; some others are still under consideration. Meanwhile, the general drive, initiated by the O. & M. Division, to bring about an improvement in the speed and efficiency is yielding encouraging results.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether Mr. Chanda made any recommendations regarding the reorganisation of the Railway Board? I also want to know whether those recommendations have been accepted? If not, what are the reasons for not accepting them?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, Sir, he did make certain recommendations in regard to the Railway Administration and these, I believe, are still under consideration by the Railway Administration and certain other departments of Government.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Prime Minister aware that the reorganisation which has taken place in the Railway Board subsequent to the submission of this Report is just in contradiction to the recommendations made by Mr. Chanda? If it is so, how will the hon. Prime Minister reconcile the statement that the recommendations are still under consideration?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Well, the reconciliation has taken place in the sense that some of the recommendations have not been accepted. The Railway Board after, careful consideration of the suggestions, accepted some which have been given effect to but there