

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, 17/i August 1955

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REFORM OF CALENDAR

*26. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Organisation have made a request to all the member nations to send their views on the reform of calendar; and

(b) if so, what are India's proposals in this respect?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposals for reforming the Calendar were supported by the Delegate representing India in the Economic and Social Council in 1954. The matter has not, however, been fully considered by the Government of India. In view of the opposition to this idea of various governments and organisations, it deserves further consideration.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether any proposal was placed by India; whether India had any proposal to place in that way and whether it was placed or not?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir, India placed a proposal for reforming the world calendar.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: If so, what were India's proposals? May I know the answer to that?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The answer is that the year is divided into four quarters in which the first of the month begins on Saturday in January and Wednesday in February and Friday in March.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it a fact that the Indian proposal contained 50 RSD—1

I twelve months, each month having an equal number of days?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Could not a statement in this respect be placed on the Table of this House?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It can be done.

PROF. G. RANGA: Have Government received any representation from one Captain Heramba in this connection?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have no knowledge.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is it a fact that our Prime Minister is opposed to this proposal?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir, it is not a fact because I had something to do in the matter of putting it forward before the ECOSOC. There is no such thing and it will not be correct to suggest that the Prime Minister is opposed to this proposal. If he was opposed then it would not have gone up before the ECOSOC.

DR. P. C. MITRA: There was a newspaper report to the effect that the Prime Minister was opposed to this proposal.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The hon. Member should accept my word in preference to what appeared in the newspaper.

SETTLEMENT WITH BRITISH STEEL MISSION FOR ESTABLISHING A STEEL PLANT

*27. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for IRON AND STEEL be pleased to state:

(a)* whether any settlement with the British Steel Mission has been* arrived at for starting the third steel plant;

(b) if so, on what terms; and

(c) where the steel plant is proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a), (b) and (c). The Mission's report has not yet been received, and these points will arise only after the report has been studied by Government.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, when the report was expected and why is it that there is delay?

SHRI K. KANUNGO: The latest information is that it has been posted in U.K.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the report was expected in the month of July and it has not been received so far?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It has been delayed a little bit because of the immensity of the work.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: I have also asked: "Whether any settlement with the British Steel Mission has been arrived at for starting the third steel plant; if so, on what terms?" Are not these negotiations going on and is it not a fact that the rate of interest is comparatively very high as far as the British firm is concerned?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There is no question of any negotiation about any rate or anything like that. In their project report they will be submitting the estimates of the plant.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Have they not given any idea as to the sites to be selected?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Their report will give them in order of their preference.

LIST OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS

•28. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry keeps a list of approved contractors;

(b) whether the list is circulated to all the Ministries of the Government of India;

(c) whether any black list of contractors is also maintained; and

(d) what are the reasons for which a contractor's name is placed on the black list?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Separate lists are maintained in the Central Public Works Department and in the Directorate General, Supplies and Disposals of contractors or suppliers of stores, with whom Government business in those departments has been suspended.

(d) There are no hard and fast rules and considerations for action are different in cases under the Central Public Works Department and the Directorate General, Supplies and Disposals. Each case is considered on its merits, but generally speaking, business with a contractor or a supplier of stores^be suspended on grounds of anti-social activities, of established malpractices in respect of Government business, conviction in a court of law for offences involving moral turpitude or for serious defaults in the matter of Government business, such as extraordinary delay in execution of contracts, non-return of Government materials or non-payment of Government dues etc.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether, before including a contractor's name in the black list, an opportunity is given to him to show cause why his name should not be included in the black list?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Actually, Sir, I have myself avoided the use of this word "black list" in my reply. All that I have said is: Government