

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 14th April 1955

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*625. [For answer, vide cols. 4685—4687 intra.]

STEEL FOUNDRY FOR CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

*626. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(u) whether government propose to set up a steel foundry at the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works as a part of its expansion programme;

(b) If so, what shall be its total capacity; and

(c) when is it likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : The matter is still under examination.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, when any decision is likely to be taken on this question?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am not able to indicate the time, but we will have to take a decision soon.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Wfcst will be the cost of that project?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We have no idea at present. The General Manager, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, has been asked to work out a schema and submit it.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is there any idea as to what is going to be its capacity?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: For the present production we need about three thousand tons of castings per year: but if the production is stepped up to two hundred locomotives, we

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may need about five thousand tons. The TELCOS are also trying to establish a foundry; but even apart from that we may require these castings and perhaps the capacity may be in the region of three thousand tons.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the more you produce materials other than foodgrains, the more you produce food shortage, because the producer will be the consumer?

PROF. G. RANGA: He is not taking care of production of food.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you asking? Does it arise out of Dr. Raghurib Sinh's question?

DR. P. C. MITRA: Yes, Sir, I am asking this. The more you produce materials other than foodgrains, the more you produce food shortage?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not arise from Dr. Raghurib Sinh's question.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Yes, Sir, the installation of steel plant.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not think. Sir, that steel competes with food!

*627. [The questioner (Shri K. Suryanarayana) was absent: For answer, vide col. 4696 infra.]

*628. [For answer, vide cols. 4687—4689 infra.]

EX-STATE RAILWAY OFFICERS

*629. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders in respect of ex-State Railway Officers referred to by the Minister for Railways in paragraph 61 of his speech introducing the Railway Budget for 1955-56;

lb) if so, vvhhat are those orders; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, when those orders are likely to be issued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) They are expected to be issued soon.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It was stated in the budget speech that orders had been finalised. May I know, Sir, what these orders are and in what directions and respects the hon. Minister proposes to include the ex-State Railway Officers?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The orders were to be issued, but they were held up on account of the expression of opinion by hon. Members in this House and in the other House. I do not propose to give any details just at present, but I hope the orders will be issued by the end of next month.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Minister is aware that on the Udaipur Railway a fully qualified engineer from Benares Hindu University, who was a gazetted officer on that railway, has all these years been working as a clerk in the Stores department as a result of this integration?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I am not aware of that particular case.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: The hon. Minister has examined this case for over three years. Am I to understand that this case has not been brought to his notice?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: No, Sir. This particular case has not been brought to my notice.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, what was the basis on which the purview of the Union Public Service Commission was taken away in respect of these officers and what were the principles which were agreed upon

in the implementation of the integration measure?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, Mr. Mathur has been told everything about these questions that he has just now asked. The Railway Board Member has discussed with him for hours and I do not think it is necessary for me just at present to go into those details.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It is not a personal matter between me and the hon. Minister. I am asking a question of principle, Sir. These officers have been taken away from the purview of the Union Public Service Commission. I wish to know what is the basis and what is the principle on which this has been done and what is the basis of the integration now. We were told, if you will remember, Sir, the other day by the Home Minister that under Federal Financial Integration there were certain political agreements between the Rajpramukh and the President of India. Then, they stopped the Public Service Commission from vetting the officers on the definite understanding that all these officers have got to be absorbed as they are. (*Interruption.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What I feel is that it is a general question of policy, integration, etc., but you cannot raise all these in the name of a supplementary question. You may give notice of a separate motion on this matter, "but you cannot ask a series of supplementaries.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, are we not entitled to ask.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course, you can. But this is not the occasion. You can give notice of a motion if you want and we will then consider.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It is not a question of motion at all. I have asked a particular question; they are doing the integration. Am I not entitled to know the basis on which the integration is being done?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has been answered.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: That has not been answered.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Sir, what the hon. Minister said was that he had some sort of a private conversation with him and he has given him that information; but the House is entitled to know as to what that information is.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The House has been informed more than once during the budget discussions this year and last year about the basis of the equation and integration of the ex-State Railway services.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, I want to ask another three or four supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not three or four; you have already put about eight questions.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put the question.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that once you have decided that the duties and responsibilities which a particular officer of the ex-State Railway is discharging are equal to a particular post, he has taken over that post or not?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Generally it is done; but other factors are also taken into consideration before doing that.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, may I know whether legal opinion has been obtained in this matter or not, in view of the fact that a person of the eminence of Bakshi Tek Chand has given his opinion to the effect that the integration as has been effected is unjust and not tenable?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We have consulted the Law Ministry and the Law Ministry has endorsed the action taken by the Railway Ministry.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Sir, I want to ask a question on this integration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a subject which affects Mysore also.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: The hon. Minister knows very well how much it has affected Mysore. I only want to know whether there was not a finding by the High Power Reviewing Committee that all these officers who were holding gazetted posts should be put into Class I?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, the High Power Committee has submitted its report. On the basis of that we arrived at certain decisions. They were communicated to Mr. Dasappa also—not actually communicated in writing, but discussions were held with him also and he knows about the recommendations of that Committee. We were going to implement them. The hon. Members differed as regards some of the recommendations and we are trying to accommodate them as much as possible. I am sorry they are not prepared to wait

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, I would like to know

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put about ten questions already.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: But the questions will be very much different.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: With regard to that part of the recommendations of the High Power Reviewing Committee, as I said, namely, that these gazetted officers should be put into Class I—may I know, Sir, what is the difficulty in accepting their own recommendations?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, I have all my sympathies with Mr. Dasappa and I am glad to assure him that not only that recommendation but other recommendations also we are considering and we propose to issue orders soon, by the end of the next month.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, you will permit me to put two questions. May

i know. Sir, whether it is a fact that under the Federal Financial Integration it was agreed that the State Governments would be associated when the integration is effected? And whether it is a fact that the State Governments were not associated in spite of this provision in the agreement? And, Sir, at a later stage, when the State Government representatives were called only as observers, the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan submitted that no fair yardstick had been applied, and if there was any yardstick which had been applied it was a rotten yardstick. May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact or not?

• Mr.

CHAIRMAN: Do you want to answer it?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: If you want me, I shall. But I may tell the House that he is referring to past history. When I took over, these things had already taken place. But then it was on the suggestion of the hon. Member that I decided to appoint a reviewing committee. That Committee had met and had invited all the Chief Secretaries of the States concerned, and the problems of the ex-State Railway employees were discussed there and they arrived at certain conclusions after discussion with them. I do not think we can do anything further.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's all right. No more questions.

CENTRAL CONTROL OVER SUGAR MILLS

*630. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOAB AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar manufacturing units the control of which has been assumed by Government under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951;

(b) whether these units are working at a profit: and

(c) what was the output of sugar in each of those mills in the year (i) previous to its being taken over, and (ii) immediately after its being taken over?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) None at present.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I may add here that if the hon. Member would like to have, some more information, I am quite prepared to give it at this stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you want to give more information than he wants?

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether in the near future any sugar mill is likely to be brought under the control of the Government?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, the position is that as a result of this Shola-pur case, we had to give up the control of those mills which we had taken under our control, of which there were four. Now, under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1940, there are seven which are supervised by us. We cannot control them, but we can issue only directions.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: As a result of Government's supervision and management in the Sholapur case, what was the amount made by the Government? Was it a profitable concern, or was it a losing concern, as compared with the management before?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: That was not the intention, Sir. The intention was to make the mills work as profitably as possible. The Government's intention was merely to add efficiency to operation.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: I did not say that there was any other motive behind it. I simply want to know whether the Government has made any profit or not.