

(b) On careful consideration of the position, the Government of India decided that the Delhi Municipal Elections should be carried out in accordance with the programme already announced by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, on the 7th June 1954.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: May I know who made the representations that have been referred to?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: All parties made representations.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: May I know what was the consensus of opinion in those representations?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Some were for postponement but only a very few. Most of them were for no postponement.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is the hon. Minister aware that in the newspapers there was a report of the general consensus of opinion that all the political parties were in favour of postponement?

MR. CHAIRMAN: She was talking about the representations received. So far as the representations were concerned, the consensus of opinion was for no postponement. But you are now talking about newspaper reports.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: I wish to know whether she is aware that the representations she received seemed to be at variance with the newspaper reports.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The Government does not proceed only on representations received. Government has to consider every matter on its merits. Considering that the State Government have had this question under review for over a year and had already delimited four constituencies and formed three new ones and up to the end of July no new objections had been raised, the Government was not in favour of postponement. There was no reasonable cause shown for postponement.

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CONSTRUCTION OF KANDLA PORT

*223. DR. R. P. DUBE: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tenders received for the construction of the Kandla Port;

(b) whether the terms of the contract with the successful tenderers provide any penalty for delay in completion of the construction works of that port; and

(c) what is the expenditure incurred up-to-date on works connected with staff welfare at that port?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Five

(b) Yes.

(c) A total expenditure of about Rs. 32 lakhs has been incurred till the end of July 1954, on the provision of quarters for staff, anti-malarial operations, etc.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Is it not a fact that the successful tenderers could not commence the work on the scheduled date, and have they now been able to make up the lost time and will the work be finished in time?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes. There was some initial delay. I think now they have started in right earnest and it is expected that the work will be completed by April 1957.

LOANS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNISATION OF MAJOR PORTS

*224. DR. R. P. DUBE: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any part of the partially interest-free loans of Rs. 22.70 crores which Government have decided to give to the port authorities for financing the schemes for the improvement and modernisation of major ports as mentioned on page 4 of the Report of the Ministry

of Transport for 1953-54 will be treated as subsidy; and

(b) the average rate of interest to be charged on these loans?

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

(b) The loans given in 1953-54 were on the following terms for all projects other than the marine oil terminal at Bombay:

(i) Repayable in 30 years.

(ii) Interest free for the first seven years and thereafter bearing interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

In the case of the Marine Oil Terminal, the period of repayment is 25 years and the rate of interest 4 per cent. after the interest-free period of 7 years.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Will he kindly state the average rate of interest that has been fixed by the Government?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The rate of interest is decided taking into consideration the market conditions. The Finance Ministry does it.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Will the hon. Minister kindly state the reason why Government gave this Rs. 22.70 crores to modernize this port instead of asking them to float loans?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The works of the ports are financed in two ways. They have certain reserve funds and they also utilize it. Over and above that, we have extended this financial assistance. They have not been permitted to float loans and that is why this assistance was granted.

*225. [The questioner (Shri Prasada-rao) was absent. For answer vide col. 1571 infra.]

FEE FOR LICENSING OF STALLS ON THE RAILWAY STATIONS

*226. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of licensing fee charged for tea, refreshment, food and other stalls at different railway stations;

(b) whether the rates charged for licensing these stalls are the same in all the railway zones; if not, why; and

(c) what was the income derived as licensing fee from these stalls in each of the years 1951, 1952 and 1953 and so far in the year 1954?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). Railway Administrations are required to charge reasonable licence fees taking into consideration the local conditions and other relevant factors including the volume of business and a reasonable margin of profit. The fees charged naturally vary from railway to railway. The question of the feasibility of securing greater uniformity in these fees is, however, under consideration.

(c) Railways maintain such statistics by financial years. These are under collection and will be placed on the Table of the House, when received.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: For how long are the present rates prevailing and will continue to prevail?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These rates were fixed in the year 1951 or so. I am not quite sure.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: And will continue up to what date?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Till they are changed.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: When are these rates usually revised?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Whenever the contract is renewed it is looked into whether any revision in the licence fee is necessary. If it is thought that the same licence fee can continue, then it is continued and no revision is made.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Are there not fixed periods for these licences?