

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion.

EXPORT OF ARTICLES TO SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

*138. KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the articles exported from India to South-East Asian countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these articles are not popular in those countries on account of their poor quality; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to improve their quality?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) India's main items of export to South-East Asian countries are cotton piecegoods, jute manufactures, coal, fruits and vegetables, seeds, tobacco and lac.

(b) Some complaints are received now and again about the quality and packing of cotton textiles from these countries.

(c) These complaints are being brought to the notice of Indian exporters and manufacturers.

*139. [The questioner (Shrimati Chandravati Lakhanpal) was absent. For answer vide cols. 1139-1140 infra.]

DEFAULT OF PAYMENT OF RENTS

*140. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of default in payment of rents by occupants of quarters under the control of the C.P.W.D. and the Estate Office;

(b) if so, the number of such cases in which default has been made in payment of rents by (i) one, (ii) two,

(iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five and (vi) above five years; and

(c) the steps taken for the recovery of rents in those cases?

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

(b) I lay on the Table a statement giving the information in the form in which it is readily available.

(c) A special section in the Estate Office has been entrusted with the task of expediting their realisation by contacting the disbursing and accounts officers concerned and where necessary by recourse to legal proceedings. The Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, is also taking action on similar lines.

Statement showing number of defaulters up-to-date with respect to arrears of rent

For the period prior and up to the year 1950-51.....about 10,000

For the year 1951-52....4,142

For the year 1952-53....2,638

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the total amount in arrears?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is Rs. 18.28 lakhs.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether there was any special difficulty in making the recoveries? Why is it that there is such a large number of claims outstanding?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Actually a lot of progress has been made in the matter of realisation. As against Rs. 45.9 lakhs outstanding on the 31st March 1951, the amount has been reduced now to Rs. 18 lakhs besides current realisations, which is not a bad figure. So far as special difficulty is concerned, arrears piled up during the period immediately before and after Partition and some of those amounts are still outstanding.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether there has been any arrear in respect of Government hostels?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the tenements are let out on a monthly rent basis or on an annual rent basis?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is no such thing as an annual rent basis now.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the defaulters are all Government servants or private persons?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: They include both categories.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know why the C.P.W.D. and the Estate Office slept over it for such a long time without taking any steps for the realisation of the arrears and allowed the tenants to continue in occupation?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: They have not slept over it, but there are some people who have a knack of managing to stay on without paying anything.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: May I know for how long a defaulter is allowed to occupy quarters by the C.P.W.D. and the Estate Office?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is no period of grace allowed but cases do occur when an officer is transferred or a Government servant changes places. Some amounts remain outstanding in such cases, or something like that happens.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Is the amount not subtracted from the pay of the officers as it is being subtracted from the allowances of the Members of Parliament?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Generally it is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do the defaulters include Members of Parliament?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I require notice, Sir.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE WIDOW OF SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

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

(a) whether Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose left behind him his wife and a daughter at Vienna; and

(b) whether the lady is in receipt of any regular financial assistance from the Government of India; if not, why not?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Yes.

(b) No regular financial assistance has been given by the Government of India. Assistance has, however, been given from private sources occasionally. The lady was not willing to receive any regular financial assistance.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Was any attempt made to invite her to India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, she was invited three—may be more—years ago and the invitation has been repeated since then.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Do Government propose to give some financial assistance to the lady?

MR. CHAIRMAN: She refuses to take from Government.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know from the hon. the Prime Minister what are the sources from which assistance had been given and if he is aware that those sources continue to give that assistance?