

COUNCIL OF STATES

Monday, 14th December 1953

The Council met at half past one of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

GRANT OF LOANS TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISERS IN SHIP-BUILDING

*262. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether the Government of India grant loans to private enterprisers in ship-building?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Government do not generally grant loans to private enterprises, but each case is considered on merits.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether any advances have been made recently to shipbuilders, Sir?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, during the year 1951-52, I find that the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. was given a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs; in 1952-53 a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs was advanced to the Hindusthan Shipyard Ltd. and during the current financial year another sum of Rs. 30 lakhs is being sanctioned to the Shipyard.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the terms for re-payment and what is the rate of interest?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: My information is regarding loans for construction Rs. 10 lakhs and that is 4½ per cent. interest and repayable in 5 equal instalments.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is the Government aware that in England loan is given at 1½ per cent repayable in 40 years.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I cannot be sure of that information. But U.K., it appears, do not provide any

kind of subsidy to the industry or to the owners of foreign-going vessels either directly or indirectly. That is our present information.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is the Government prepared to give some subsidy to private owners as is to Vishakapatnam Shipyard?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Each case on its merits, he said already.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that for the Hindusthan Shipyard the difference between cost of production and market value is given by the Government?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I find, Sir, in reply to the earlier supplementary that the Bharat Lines Ltd. and the Great Eastern Shipping Co. have been given loans to the tune of Rs. 29,50,000, Rs. 44,50,000 and Rs. 26,50,000.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether it is the policy of Government to encourage private efforts in shipbuilding?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to find out before a firm answer is given.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Does the Government feel satisfied that the target planned by the Planning Commission will be reached by this method of giving loans at 4½ per cent. interest?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We are hoping so.

*263. [The questioner (Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo) was absent. For answer, vide column 2143 infra.]

CONFERENCE WITH CHINA ON TIBET

*264. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold a conference with Communist

China to discuss the outstanding matters regarding India and Tibet; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). It is not our practice to refer to Governments by their political creed. It has been agreed to hold discussions on this subject in Peking towards the end of this month. Our Ambassador, who had come here for consultations, has already left for China and will be followed by one or two officers of the External Affairs Ministry.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the scope and purpose of these talks?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: I do not think, Sir, that on the eve of this conference it will be desirable to enter into a discussion on this.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: What are the most outstanding matters regarding India and China still pending for discussion?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: I would like to repeat what the Prime Minister said in the other House the other day: "The House will appreciate that on the eve of this conference in Peking it will not be desirable to discuss these questions in detail. These questions are going to be discussed by both Governments on the basis of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity."

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: We are not asking for the details of the discussions that are to take place. We want to know what are the items on the agenda for this meeting?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: I do not think it will be in the public interest to refer to them here.

EXPORT OF WOLFRAM

*265. SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of wolfram is banned by the Government of India;

(b) the names of the States in India producing wolfram; and

(c) whether there was any negotiation by the Rajasthan Government with the Tatas for the sale of this metal?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The only producing deposits of wolfram in India are those of Degana in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Occurrences of wolfram from certain localities in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Madras have also been reported.

(c) Yes, but the sale did not materialise.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the hon. Minister tell me whether this ban is total or only partial or do you allow the export of some wolfram?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I could not get the latter part of the question.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Is the ban to which the hon. Minister has referred a total ban or is it only a partial ban?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, we wanted that wolfram be sold here, but as the sale did not materialise, we allowed it to be exported.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Am I to understand that export is allowed?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice about that. In this particular case it was allowed much against our will. As regards the current policy regarding export of wolfram, I should like to have notice.