

COUNCIL OF STATES

Tuesday, 22nd December 1953

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS P. &

T. DEPRECIATION RESERVE FUND

*413. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-end balance in the Depreciation Reserve Fund in the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the years 1950, 1951 and 1952; and

(b) the annual contributions to the Fund during the above years and the method of calculating the contribution in relation to the assets?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) The Fund referred to is at present known as "Renewals Reserve Fund". The balances in the Fund at the end of the years 1949-50 to 1952-53 are as follows: —

	Rs.	(lakhs)
Balance at the end of 1949-50		5.83
Balance at the end of 1950-51		5.71
Ba'ance at the end of 1951-52		5.67
Balance at the end of 1952-53		5.58

(b) The annual contribution to the Fund for the years 1949-50 to 1952-53 are as follows: —

Rs. (lakhs)

1949-50	7 ¹ ·03
1950-51	7 ¹ ·03
1951-52	75 ⁰⁰
1952-53	75 ¹⁰

Since 1936-37, annual contribution to the Fund is calculated on broader considerations, such as the amount

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likely to be required for rehabilitation of assets and the amount of capital at charge.

Following the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee, the question of evolving a scientific method for determining the annual contribution to the Fund is under consideration of Government.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, if the annual contribution to the Fund is made as a lump-sum contribution or whether it is calculated on the different categories of assets?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is mainly on an *ad hoc* basis.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: That means to say, as a lump-sum contribution. Is that so?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know if the balances in this Fund are credited to the general revenues or kept separately in the Fund?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, it is maintained as a Fund as such, but for other purposes it is treated as part of the general revenues.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether, when the surplus revenues of the P. and T. Department are merged in the general revenues, this "Renewals Reserve Fund" is deducted from the gross receipts?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: We maintain this Fund and wherever we require we get necessary amount; but for all practical purposes, they are treated as part of the general revenues.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is not the P. and T. Department keeping accounts on a commercial basis. Is there no balance-sheet drawn up? I understand that the surplus after deducting expenditure from our gross profits is merged in the general revenues.

SHRI J AG JI VAN RAM: My point is that where the "Renewals Reserve Fund" is concerned, the contribution is from the annual receipts.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: In his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that the balances in the Depreciation Reserve Fund at the end of 1951-52 are round about Rs. 570 lakhs. Is it a fact that no contribution is added from year to year to the Depreciation Reserve Fund, since the Reserve Fund has not increased appreciably?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: But there is expenditure every year. Every year we divert some funds to this Fund and every year there is withdrawal.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know what is the contribution to the Depreciation Reserve Fund every year?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, I have given the figures.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I know, Sir, whether it is the intention of Government to devise some sort of a convention on the lines of the Railway Convention in respect of the hon. Minister's Department?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, Sir, the entire question is under consideration.

- DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is there a 'Betterment Fund' in the P. and T. Department similar to the 'Betterment Fund' on the Railways?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: No, Sir, that also is under consideration. As I said, the whole question of the P. and T. is under the consideration of the Government.

PORTS AND SHIPPING STATISTICS COMMITTEE

•414. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Ports and Shipping Statistics Committee has been constituted;

(b) if so, what is the personnel of the Committee; and

(c) what are its functions and duration?

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

(b) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The committee consists of the following members:—

- (1) Shri M. A. Master (Trade and Industry), Bombay—*Chairman*.
- (2) Shri S. N. Haji (Representative of Shipping) Bombay.
- (3) Shri D. K. Guha, Superintendent, Traffic Department, Calcutta Port Commissioners —*Member-Secretary*.
- (4) Shri A. Mudie, State Port Officer, Madras.
- (5) Shri C. R. B. Menon, Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, or his Deputy, Dr. S. G. Rao.
- (6) Shri P. R. Subramanian, Deputy Director General of Shipping, Bombay.
- (7) Shri Ramamurati, Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi.
- (8) Shri B. B. Gujral, Assistant Collector of Customs, Calcutta Customs House.

The following are the terms of reference of the Committee:—

I. To examine and report—

- (a) on port and shipping statistics that are being collected and maintained in major and minor ports;
- (b) the extent to which such statistics are being published either by Central and State