

these Project Officers has not been sufficient?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It has not been found that the training has not been sufficient in all cases.

*151. [The questioner (Shri Rahmath-Ullah was absent.)]

*152. [The questioner (Shri Rahmath-Ullah) was absent.]

SALE OF PETROL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

*153. **SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM:** Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the All-India Conference of the Petroleum Workers has complained that Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company of India Ltd.; Standard Vacuum Oil Company, Ltd., and Caltex (India) Ltd. sell petrol and petroleum products worth Rs. 170 crores annually, making profits of not less than Rs. 10 crores, but do not show all those profits in their accounts which they submit to Government; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the Conference demanded an Enquiry Committee to look into the matter; if so, what steps Government have taken in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received by the Government.

(b) No, Sir. No such demand has been received by Government and so no action has been taken.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Sir, is it not a fact that the foreign concerns

refused to submit their accounts before the Industrial Tribunal?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I believe one of the three companies submitted their accounts before the Industrial Tribunal in Bombay but they requested that they should be treated as confidential. Although the Tribunal used those figures it did not refer to them in its award. The position, if I might explain, is that these three companies which are operating in India and which are engaged in the distribution of oil are incorporated in foreign countries. They are not incorporated in India. Therefore under the Indian Companies Act they are not bound to submit their accounts to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and there is no power with Government to compel them to do so.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: May I know, Sir, what action the Government is contemplating in order to see that they submit their accounts before the Industrial Tribunal and that the workers are given the two bonuses?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I think, Sir, the position is that if the companies refuse to submit their accounts they would incur an adverse presumption and therefore they would suffer in the long run. That was why one of the companies had thought it fit to submit its accounts to the Tribunal.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Cannot legislative power be taken to compel them to publish their accounts?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I think, Sir, the Bill that is now before the other House seeks to comprehensively review the law.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Am I to understand that the Government has no knowledge whatsoever as to the operations of foreign companies in India?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They never said that

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: He said that the foreign companies registered outside India are not obliged to file their profit and loss accounts and other information with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. Am I therefore to understand that the Government ordinarily has no information whatever as to whether the foreign companies earn anything out of the goods which they sell in India?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I think it is a very general question. Certainly Government has some information, about the working of these companies.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Do they have information about these three monopoly oil companies operating in India?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: No, Sir. In the case of these three companies Government has not got in their possession the profit and loss accounts of these companies.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Are not the profit and loss accounts and the balance sheets published by these companies, Sir?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: Not in this country, I think.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Have the Government got material in their possession and are they in a position to say that these charges are entirely unfounded?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I do not know how the question arises when according to the question the business done by the three companies is Rs. 170 crores and the profit works out at Rs. 10 crores which is actually 6 per cent. and which is not considered as very high.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Is it not a fact that these foreign companies also have to pay income-tax and their accounts are liable to inspection by the income-tax department?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: So far as the income-tax figures are concerned, according to the age-long convention, they are not used publicly.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Is it not a fact that they are bound to keep accounts and the income-tax department can inspect those accounts for purposes of income-tax?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is not denied.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Why are the profits calculated on the amount of sales and not on the capital investment?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: You say that Rs. 170 crores is the sales and Rs. 10 crores is the profit and you calculated the profit on the basis of the sales. Why are you doing so? Why not on the investment?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: Sir, the position is that these companies are not manufacturing concerns. Their main business is distribution. They are not manufacturing anything in this country.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the Government aware of the Minister stating in the other House, in reply to a question put by an hon. Member there, that the profits earned by these companies are only two crores of rupees? If so, how do they square up that answer with the present answer that Rs. 10 crores is the profit?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I do not know what the hon. Member refers to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: In some other place it was said that the profit was rupees two crores and here it is said rupees 10 crores. How do you reconcile this 6 per cent. with that 2 per cent.

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIR: As far as I am aware, no such question was ever asked on the profits of these companies.

SERVICE CONDITIONS OF ARTISTES IN A.I.R.

*154. SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether the permanent staff artistes come under the Factory Act or any other Act for the protection of their rights?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): No, Sir. There are no permanent staff artistes; they are all on contract of different sorts and their rights are protected by the terms of their contract.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Is it not a fact, Sir, that representation was made to the Ministry mentioning their difficulties under this contract system when the Minister visited Madras?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Staff artistes of different categories do make representations to Government regarding their difficulties. The difficulties that they enumerate are not regarding the contract system but the various facilities that they would like to have and we always look into all such cases in particular. As for the question whether they should be on the contract system or not, the contract system is the best. This has been the experience not only of this broadcasting organization but of all the broadcasting organisations in the world who have staff artistes. No other system is possible, because every

artiste has to do work of a completely different sort and his hours of work also cannot be guaranteed to be the same as those of the other artistes.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What action did the Government take on the complaints of the artistes for various facilities?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: There are more than a thousand artistes, and among them different groups and categories, each one doing different kinds of work. Of course we are looking into their representations but it will require a very long and detailed statement to show what action has been taken and what was represented.

DISMISSAL OF ARTISTES FROM TRICHY STATION OF A.I.R.

*155. SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 7 permanent staff artistes of Trichy Station of All India Radio were recently discharged from their service;

(b) if so, why; and

(c) whether Government conducted any enquiry into the charges made against them?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) No, Sir. There are no permanent staff artistes in the employ of All India Radio. All staff artistes are on contracts of limited duration. During the last two years the services of only one staff artiste were terminated at the Tiruchirapalli Station from 3rd October 1952.

(b) He was found guilty of serious misconduct and his continuance in service would have been highly prejudicial to the prestige and reputation of A.I.R.

(c) Yes, Sir. The charges were fully investigated and proved.