

COUNCIL OF STATES

Thursday, 17th September 1953

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CONFIRMATION OF EX-HYDERABAD P. & T. EMPLOYEES

*382. SHRI M VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many officials of the former Hyderabad Posts and Telegraphs Service since integrated in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department are yet to be confirmed; and

(b) whether some officials of the said service have been retrenched or are going to be retrenched; if so, what is their number and what are the reasons for their retrenchment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Council in due course.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

SHRI M VALIULLA: Sir, may I know how many persons have been taken in the Posts & Telegraphs Department?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not able to give the total number.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is there any difference made between the permanent employees and the temporary employees, Sir?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, Sir. So far as the permanent employees having their liens in the former Hyderabad Posts and Telegraphs Service are concerned, they have been absorbed in the corresponding posts in the Posts & Telegraphs Department. With regard to temporary hands, we have got different rules.

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SHRI M VALIULLA: Sir, a similar question was put in the House of the People about permanent employees. Then the answer was that the information was being collected. Is the information still being collected?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, Sir, because we have got to deal with a large number of departmental files.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOODS IN TRANSIT BY CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

*383. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board have passed orders in the case of misappropriation of thirty-six wagon loads of scarce goods by certain Industries,

(b) whether the parties responsible for the misappropriation have been challaned, if not, why not; and

(c) what was the amount claimed by the owners of those goods?

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

(a) and (b) The responsibility of the Railway Board in this case is limited to taking action against those Railway employees who might be found to have been guilty of negligence in the matter of misdirection. Suitable action in this respect is already being taken.

(c) It is not possible to give the total amount of claim received in this case but the total value of the goods contained in such of the wagons as were taken over by the party in question comes to about Rs. 78,000.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Sir, it is said in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question that suitable action in this respect is being taken. Is it departmental action that is being taken?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Against the Railway employees, we are taking departmental action.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Has any prosecution been launched against the Modi Sugar Industries who are alleged to have stolen those wagons?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Home Ministry has decided after consulting legal opinion that no case lies against them for criminal proceedings.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the Special Police Establishment after making a comprehensive enquiry reported that nine members of the Modi Sugar Industries including the General Manager and the Manager be prosecuted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How do you know all this?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: On a report made by the Special Police Establishment, legal opinion was obtained and the Home Ministry decided towards the end of last year that there was no case for criminal proceedings.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Law Ministry was not consulted in this matter? The answer was given in the House of the People that they were not consulted. May I know why it was not consulted, Sir?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is for the Home Ministry to say.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: I want one clarification from you, Sir. A reference to the proceedings of the other House is, I think, against Parliamentary practice.

PROF. G. RANGA: No, no.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

MATCHWOOD PLANTATIONS

*384. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States which have joined the scheme of raising match-wood plantations;

(b) (i) the amount of subsidy paid to each State in the year 1952-53; and (ii) the basis for the calculation of the amount of subsidy paid to the States;

(c) the acreage of match-wood plantation in each State which receives subsidy; and

(d) whether any States which have not joined the scheme are raising match-wood plantations; if so, the names of such States and the acreage of plantations in each of them?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix V, Annexure No. 98.]

(d) Government of India have no information.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know the basis upon which subsidy is granted to the various States?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: When a State joins the scheme, it incurs certain expenditure and the accounts are submitted through the Accountant General of that particular State. And then 50 per cent. subsidy is paid.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Sir, in the statement furnished it is said that Uttar Pradesh has got 1,452 acres of matchwood plantations, and the amount of subsidy given to it is Rs. 44,289, whereas in Travancore-Cochin the acreage is only 400 and the amount of subsidy is Rs. 1,454. It is not an equitable distribution. May I know why that is so?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, probably my friend does not know that the rates vary from State to State. I can give you the figures. In Uttar Pradesh it is Rs. 30-7-10 per acre. In Assam.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have given it in your Statement.