

COUNCIL OF STATES

Thursday, the 5th March 1953

The Council met at two of the clock in the afternoon, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions. Mr. Dhage.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Sir, since yesterday evening the Party Office was evicted by the police and the papers were thrown out we have had no time to prepare our questions in regard to this and therefore, I do not think, Sir, we will be able to put any questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dhage, you are very modest. I never thought you were so deficient in intelligence as not to be able to put supplementary questions on the answers given by the Ministers. Question No. 221.

LEASE OF FORESTS

*221. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions under which the North Andaman forests were leased to Messrs. P. C. Ray & Co.; and

(b) the progress of operations carried out by the said Company so far in terms of the lease?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE <DR. P. S. DESHMUKH>: (a) A copy of 'North Andamans Agreement of Licence' containing the conditions under which the lease has been granted is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 73.]

(b) On account of certain initial difficulties the Company could not commence regular extraction of timber till January, 1952 and no timber was exported by them to the mainland till April, 1952. Between then and January, 1953 they exported about 9,000

6 CSD

tons of timber to the mainland. The Company is also placing orders for the purchase of machinery etc. required for setting up the factories mentioned in Clause 29 of the said 'Agreement of Licence'.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that before the war very much more of this timber was being exported from Andamans to India and also abroad?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not got the figures here. Probably my hon. friend is correct. This matter took a lot of time to be finalised and work has recently been started and I think we will be able to catch up.

PROF. G. RANGA: Have the Government satisfied themselves that this company has sufficient amount of capital and also shipping facilities to carry on this export of timber from there satisfactorily?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Open tenders were invited and we found that this was the best company we could entrust the work to. 'the solvency of the company is apparent from the fact that they have deposited Rs. 10 lakhs by way of security.

LOANS TO THE DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

*222. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of re-payable loans made by Government to the Delhi Improvement Trust since 1947; and

(b) how much out of it has been repaid?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR): (a) No repayable loans were given by the Government to the Delhi Improvement Trust from 1947.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is any other kind of loan given to the Improvement Trust?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: Not that I know of, Sir.

CALCUTTA PORT

♦223. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial position of Calcutta Port in the year 1952 from January to October as revealed from its monthly income and expenditure,

(b) what are the resources on which the Port can rely to meet any financial deficit; and

(c) what is the total amount of loan raised for the Port till now?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Surplus of Rs. "10,24,753.

(b) The combined Revenue Reserve and Fire Insurance Fund.

(c) The total amount of loan outstanding on the 31st March 1953 will be Rs. 24.93 crores.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the Reserve Fund of this Port, Sir?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, it would be about 5.8 crores.

PROP. G. RANGA: What do they do with this surplus revenue that they have had apart from making some provision for the Depreciation Fund?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is put in the Reserve Fund.

PROF. G. RANGA: All of it?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes.

PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY U.S.A. ON FOREIGN SEAMEN

*224. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian seamen belonging to Indian ships are by virtue of an Act passed by the Government of the United States of America required to produce a passport before they land in any harbour of that country;

(b) if so, when this restriction was imposed; and

(c) whether Government have lodged any protest against the hardships caused by the new Act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) The answer is in the affirmative but the restrictions referred to are applicable not orw to Indian Seamen on Indian ships but to all non-U.S. ships bringing non-immigrant seamen to U.S. ports;

(b) In December 1952;

(c) No.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Indian shipping companies not represented to the Government that a lot of inconvenience is caused by these restrictions. Sir?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. It has been represented and the matter is under the consideration of Government.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government taken any step in order to remedy the situation?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, we are in consultation with the American Consul General in India.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR: May I know, Sir, whether the Indian Government has imposed any such restrictions on U.S. seamen when they land on any Indian harbour?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We have not imposed any such restrictions, and we hope the difficulties will be smoothened out.