

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am saying they totally disowned the Daily Express when the matter was brought to their notice.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if, in view of these malicious attacks against India and the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister would give up the idea of attending the Coronation. This is a simple question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SALE OF DAKOTAS

*641. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Dakotas are being sold by Government;

(b) if so, how many and to whom; and

(c) the number of Dakotas sold since 1947, with the names of their purchasers and their sale prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV. Annexure 199.]

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know the total number of Dakotas in the country?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I can give the total figure of those sold from Disposals. About the total number in the country, I think the question should be directed to my colleague, the Minister for Communications.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: In the statement laid on the Table, quite a number of these Dakotas are marked unserviceable may I know the meaning of 'unserviceable'?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: It means ! they could be used for cannibalisation purposes and not for actual use.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Cannibalisation is specially marked on this paper that I have. Unserviceable is separately marked. May I know the difference between cannibalisation and unserviceable?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: All unserviceable aircraft except those which have been sold as scrap—and they have not been shown here—are used for cannibalisation purposes.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Were these Dakotas, marked 'unserviceable', ever used by the civil air lines?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I don't think so.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know the appetite of Dakota cannibals?

(No answer.)

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know how the sale price is fixed?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: The sale price was fixed by the Disposals Board who took into consideration the demand for these aircraft and also, I believe, the world price of such aircraft.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Have the employees of the various airways sent a representation that these aircraft were not purchased in the cheapest markets?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I am not aware of any such representations.

PRODUCTION OF TELEPHONE CABLES

*642. SHRI KISHORI RAM: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of manufacturing one mile length of insulated telephone cables in India; and

(b) the estimated length of cables production per year from the Indian factory when it goes into production?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) In view of the fact that various types, sizes and gauges of cable will be manufactured in the Telephone Cable Factory at Rupnarainpur it is not possible to express the cost of manufacture in terms of mile unit.

(b) 469 miles, when the Factory goes into full production.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know what is the cost of production of the various types?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: About the cost of the various types I am sorry I cannot give the figures but according to the estimates prepared in 1950, the cost of production of the 469 miles of cables was worked out to be about Rs. 65 lakhs.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: How does our cost of production compare with that of other countries like U.S.A. or U. K.?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am sorry I have not got the figures.

PURCHASE OF SHARES BY INDIANS IN OIL REFINERY COMPANIES

*643. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of preferential shares left open for purchase by Indians in the oil refinery companies;

;>> what is the rate of profit on these shares; and

(c) what is the percentage of the value of the shares to the total investment by the oil refinery companies?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) The amount of preference shares to be offered for

investment by Indians in all the three new refineries is expected to be of the order of about Rs. 34 crores.

(b) The preference shares will be entitled to receive a fixed cumulative preferential dividend from the profits. The rate of such dividend is expected to be about 6 per cent, per annum, or such other rate as may appear appropriate under conditions existing at the time of issue.

(c) The amount of preference shares will represent about 7 per cent, of the total investment in the three refineries. As, however, a considerable portion of the total investment will be met by loans to be given by the parent companies or to be raised in India, the actual percentage of the preference shares to the issued capital will be much higher.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is Government going to purchase any shares out of these?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: No, it is not contemplated at present.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Why are the preference shares reserved for the Indian nationals?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: To allow for certain investments in the capital of these companies.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Why only the preference shares and not the ordinary ones?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: That is the agreement. The Companies themselves are willing to put in all the capital for the ordinary shares.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is it a fact that in today's Hindustan Times a news item has come out that the preference shares will bear 5i per cent, and that almost 90 per cent, of them are likely to be subscribed by Indian Insurance Companies?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am sorry I have not read that report.