

the International Bank's loan of 7-5 million dollars we bought these tractors.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI : What is the average number of working hours per day for these tractors ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It depends on the season in which the tractors are used. Per hour these tractors are able to plough half an acre. The working hours depend on the season, whether it is a rainy season or not, and other factors which govern their work.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI : Have workshops been put up for the proper repairing of these tractors ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Yes. There is one such workshop at the Central Tractor Organisation here and the various companies like the Ferguson, Simpson and other companies, they manufacture some of the spare parts and they have also taken up the repairing of tractors. While giving import licences, the Industry and Commerce Ministry lays down the condition that those companies, which import tractors, must import 50 per cent, of the spare parts and must be able to take up repairs and servicing after the import of the tractors and their supply to the various parties.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Which are the companies that are not prepared to give spare parts to these tractors which do not function well ? And will Government see that these spare parts are supplied by them when the tractors require these spare parts ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : We have no such information.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it a fact that according to the agreement with the International Bank for the loan, we must buy these things from the dollar area alone ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I would like to have notice, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : The hon. Minister said that the International Bank insists that tractors must be bought from this loan and of particular makes. Is that part of the agreement ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I said only this much, that being bankers they must be insisting on it.

PROF. G. RANGA : Sir, is it not better the hon. Minister obtains full information before giving an answer ? Is it not a fact that the International Bank has no favourites and does not insist that any one particular make of tractors alone should be bought ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : That must be; but I want notice.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : If that is so, why did the Government purchase these very tractors ?

{No answer.}

SHRI M. S. RANAWAT : Did the Rajasthan Government ask for any tractors and if so how many were supplied to them ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I do not have the information, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : If the International Bank did not insist, then why did Government purchase tractors worth 7-5 million dollars from the hard currency areas when they are so hard up for that currency themselves.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I want notice.

INDIA STEAMSHIP COMPANY

*86. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) how many cadets trained in the training ship "Dufferin" have been offered apprenticeships by the India Steamship Company during the last five years?

(b) what is the number and percentage of Indian nationals in the officer cadre employed by that Company ?

(c) whether Government have, at any time, asked for Indianisation of the staff of the said company ; and

(d) whether any contracts have been given by Government to this Company, for the carriage of mails, grain and other State freight; if so, what is the amount paid by Government for such contracts ?

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

(b) Dock Officers : 7 out of 32; percentage 21-9 ;

Engineer Officers: 18 out of 25 ; - percentage 72-0 (certificated) ;

Radio Officers: All the eight officers are non-Indians.

(c) Yes, in respect of Radio Officers. As regards the Dock Officers and Engineer Officers, Government have not taken up the matter with the Company on account of the overall shortage of certificated Indians.

(d) The Company has no Government contract.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that since 1947 representations have been made to the Ministry of Transport that this particular Company has not been taking sufficient number of Indian officers ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The Ministry has taken up the question with the Company and the Ministry is persuading the Company to employ more Indian officers ; but there are certain difficulties in the way.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I repeat my question, Sir. I asked whether representations were made and are being made since 1947 that this Company prefers non-Indian officers to man their ships ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I do not know about all the representations. Sir, but, we have no evidence to feel

that the Company prefers non-Indian officers. In fact, they have promised to take Indian personnel as soon as they are available.

DR. A. R. MUDALIAR : Is it a fact, Sir, that the Company "came into existence and owned these ships only in 1947 ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I take the information from the hon. Member and it is so.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that, unlike other companies which automatically absorb apprentices and officers who have some service, in their company, this Company does not encourage Indian officers to continue in their service and does not appoint their apprentices as officers ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It is true Sir, that the Indian personnel employed in this Company is of a lower percentage than in the other companies. Outside the figures that I have mentioned, they have taken 18 persons from the Nautical Engineering College and they are giving them training. The total comes to 45, I believe.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I asked a question ; I did not get the answer. May I repeat or shall I ask another question ? Sir, is it a fact that the Shipping Policy Reconstruction Committee refused to accord the word "Indian" to this Company ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I am not aware of it, Sir.

DR. A. R. MUDALIAR : Is it not a fact, Sir, that this is wholly without any basis whatsoever, the last sentiment that the hon. Member has given expression to, in the publicity of this House ? I should like to have this go on record that it is wholly without any basis.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I replied in the negative to the previous question. Perhaps this question is an answer to it.

DR. A. R. MUDALIAR : Is it not a fact that this Company has the vessels for the first time from 1947, unlike the other companies which have been in this business for many years and that it is not possible for a new company, with a new set of steamships to suddenly have Indian personnel and that is also not available ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Yes, Sir, it is a new company.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that the Company's policy has gone against Indianisation, especially in view of the fact that some of the officers who start their carriers in this Company are not allowed to carry on in service for a long time ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I don't think, Sir, we have any evidence to support it.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I ask for an assurance from Government that if representations are made—the Central Government denies any representations having been made—they will see to it that this Company also accords the same preference as it ought to and as any other Indian company does, operating in our country ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Sir, the Government naturally agree with the principle underlying the question. I have already informed the House that the Government has taken up the question with this Company. This Company has got an agreement with Marconi, who are responsible for the care and upkeep of the wireless system installed in the vessels and the Company has also taken up the question with the Marconis and it is pressing them to make arrangements for the training of Indians so that they may also be employed as Radio Officers.

PRICE OF IMPORTED FOOD GRAINS

*87. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for FOOD and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate per ton in rupees at which wheat was supplied to India during the current year by (1) the United States of America, (2) Canada, (3) Argentina, and (4) Australia and the freight charges per ton paid thereon ; and

(b) the rate per ton in rupees at which rice was supplied to India by (1) Burma, (2) Siam, and (3) China during the current year and the freight charges paid thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to disclose the prices paid to different countries for imported foodgrains during the current year as the disclosure may jeopardise further purchases.

A statement showing the average freight rate per ton paid for wheat and rice imported from different countries is, however, placed on the Table of the House.

No wheat has been imported from Argentina during the current year.

STATEMENT

Commodity	Exporting Country	Average freight paid per ton (In Rs.)
Wheat	U.S.A.	120
	Canada	97
	Australia	44
Rice	Thailand	39
	Burma	35
	China	43

PROF. G. RANGA : Is Argentina also one of the signatories of the International Wheat Agreement ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I think so, Sir.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether the rates of imported wheat will be higher or lower next year, including freight charges, if you are not going to give the prices paid this year ?