

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN : Are these Directors subject to rotation ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : No, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Does not this policy of appointing three non-officials in the Board of Directors mean that Government funds are in the hands of private agencies ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : No, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Why not all the eight Directors be Government officials themselves ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I am a little surprised to notice the firm faith hon. Members have in Government officials.

SHRI SHRIYANS PRASAD JAIN : Will the Companies Act apply.....

SHRI K. C. REDDY : It is registered under the Company's Act.

II. A. M.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME OF HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD

*177. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) the construction programme of the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam, for 1951 and 1952 ; and

(b) the progress made so far in working it?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) and (b). Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., was incorporated only on the 21st January 1952. During the current year, the shipyard has completed and launched three ships: The Jag Rani (4th June 1952), the Jala Prarap (31st July 1952) and the Jala Pushpa (30th September 1952) and has two more ships, the VC 114 and the VC 115 under construction. The shipyard also has orders for seven more ships on hand, and these, it is expected, will keep it engaged till the end of 1954 or early 1955. Production programmes for the future can only be settled after the Project Report, now

being prepared by the shipyard's French technical advisers, is ready. It is expected that this Project Report will be ready towards the end of January 1953.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Is the production programme for 1952 according to schedule ? Is the progress according to the schedule or behind the schedule for 1952 ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : There has been some delay because of the non-availability of steel at the proper stages. We are making every effort to secure the required quantity of steel.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know whether Government are contemplating importing sufficient quantity of steel for this purpose ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : This aspect is also under consideration.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know whether Government are aware of the assurance of the Minister in charge with respect to certain deficiencies especially in the matter of the production of auxiliary engines, when I raised the discussion over this shipyard last session ? If so, may I know whether Government have asked these French experts of the shipyard to go into the matter ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : Government are aware of the assurance given. This matter and the possibility of manufacturing auxiliary machinery and making it available to the shipyard have been referred to the French consultants and they are busy drawing up their report. As I have already indicated their report could be expected to be in our hands by January 1953. After the report is received we will go into this question carefully.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Another matter on which the hon. Minister assured us was in respect of the training of Indian personnel in the shipyard. I want to know if the Government are aware of that, and if so, whether they have asked the French committee of

experts to go into the matter and make recommendations in that regard also ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : Yes, Sir. We have asked for that information also.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is the work programme calculated to avoid unemployment and provide full employment to those people who are already engaged in the shipyard ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : Well, there is an amount of surplus labour in this yard. It is not a recent occurrence. It has been there for a long time. Every effort is being made to absorb the entire labour. But it is too early to say whether we will be able to give work to all of them. But every effort is being made to go ahead with as much of the programme as possible which would give employment to more labour.

JUTE IMPORT

*178. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has discriminated against India in levying taxes, duties and licence fees on India's jute imports ;

(b) if so, the particulars of such discriminatory levies ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to get relief from such discrimination ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) and (b). Yes. The Government of Pakistan introduced with effect from 1st July 1952, two measures affecting the export of raw jute to India which are discriminatory. These are (1) imposition of a licence fee of Rs. 2-8-0 per maund exclusively on exports of raw jute to India, and (2) reduction of the rates of export duty on raw jute, (i) from Rs. 35 to Rs. 15 per bale of 400 lbs. on pucca bales (i.e., from Rs. 7 to Rs. 3 per maund), and (ii) from Rs. 7 to Rs. 3-12-0 per maund on loose jute or jute in kutchha bales which are exported only to India.

No information is available whether there is any discrimination against India in the matter of taxes.

(c) (1) The question was discussed between the representatives of the Government of India and the Pakistan Delegation to the Trade Talks held in July last but no satisfactory settlement of the issue was found possible.

(2) On the 3rd October 1952, a written protest was lodged with the Government of Pakistan by our High Commissioner in Karachi against these discriminatory charges.

(3) The matter was also taken up at the last session of G. A. T. T. held at Geneva and in accordance with the advice of the Chairman, Plenary Session, further discussions are taking place with the Government of Pakistan.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know since when this licensing fee is levied on jute exports ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I said from 1st July 1952.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know if such licence fee is levied on exports from other countries ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : No. That is why I said there is discrimination.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know the result of the representation of the Government of India to the Tariffs and Trade Conference ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Further discussions are taking place with the Government of Pakistan. The matter went up before the Plenary Session and there, on the advice of the Chairman, we and Pakistan were asked to take up the matter between ourselves and the discussions are taking place.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : What has been the response of the Pakistan Government to India's protest ?