

COUNCIL OF STATES

Monday, 28th July 1952

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHRI B. RATH: Sir, questions Nos. 39, 40 and 51 all relate to one and the same subject. Therefore, may I request you to give permission to me to put all these three questions together so that they may be answered all together and there will be less of supplementaries ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They are generally put one after the other. He may now put his question No. 39.

IMPORT PERMITS

*39. SHRI B. RATH : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) if one Eastern Mercantile Corporation had applied for and obtained import permits during the years 1950 to 1952 ;

(b) if so, when such applications were made and when they were issued.

(c) who were the persons who applied for such permits ; and

(d) what were the articles and the quantity thereof for which such permits were granted ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) to (d). A list of all import licences issued is published by the Chief Controller of Imports and is also circulated to Chambers of Commerce, etc. No separate record is maintained of particulars relating to individual firms.

SHRI B. RATH : Then, may I know whether, with reference to this firm, Government cannot give us any specific reply ?

27 C S Deb.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : No separate records are maintained of particulars relating to individual firms, by Government.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Sir, what we want to know is whether the hon. Minister cannot provide us with the particulars requested for.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Once again I repeat that in the office of the Chief Controller of Imports no records are maintained of licences given to individual firms. The practice is, as soon as a licence is granted, the notification is published in the Chief Controller's office and also in the various Joint Chief Controllers' and Deputy Chief Controllers' offices all over India and copies of these notifications are sent to Chambers of Commerce etc. Records are not kept on the basis of applications by individual firms.

SHRI B. RATH : Which are the Chambers of Commerce to which this information is being sent ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : All the Chambers of Commerce.

SHRI B. RATH : All means how many ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I would like to have notice.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Sir, the question is whether the hon. Minister would not procure the information and provide it to us.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : As I have already said, we do not keep any records of individual firms, and it is very difficult for us to procure this information.

SHRI B. RATH : Does not the Government keep any record as to the permits for imports granted to individual firms ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I have no further information.

IMPORT LICENCES GRANTED TO EASTERN MERCANTILE CORPORATION

*40. SHRI S. MAHANTY : Will the

Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how many import licences were granted to the 'Eastern Mercantile Corporation' of Cuttack in Orissa in 1950-51 and 1951-52 ;

(b) what were the goods for which and the countries in respect of which such licences were granted ;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa made a special recommendation to the Central Government for granting such licences in favour of the Eastern Mercantile Corporation ;

(d) who is the Managing Director of the Eastern Mercantile Corporation ;

(e) the names and designations of other members of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Mercantile Corporation ; and

(f) for how many years past the firm has been engaged in import and export business ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) to (f). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer already given to starred question No. 39.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Is it a fact that the S. P. E. Delhi had the premises of the Managing Director of the Eastern Mercantile Corporation searched under section 420 of the I. P. C. and under the Import-Export Rules, 1947, and if so, did this investigation relate to any of the import licences granted to this Corporation ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : If the hon. Member means that some action has been initiated by the Commerce and Industry Ministry in this regard, I can say that we have not done it.

SHRI S. MAHANTY : Sir, the whole matter seems fishy and the particular urgency of it can well be appreciated from the fact that no less than three Members from Orissa have tabled questions on this subject. What we want to know from the hon. Minister is whether he would take the trouble to investigate the matter and let us know

as early as possible whether same import licences were granted to this firm which were alleged to have been sold. He can easily ascertain this from the office of the Chief Controller of Imports. That is not very difficult. What we want to impress here is that the matter is very urgent. It smells so fishy and we would request the hon. Minister to dispel whatever misapprehensions there may be.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I am grateful to the hon. Member for giving me this information and I can assure him and the House that I will do anything that is possible. But what the hon. Member has been saying is a suggestion for action.

CONSTRUCTION OF KRISHNA PENNAR PROJECTS

*41. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any recommendation from the Madras Government that the Krishna Pennar Projects construction should be given preference over the Nandikonda Project ? If so, what decision has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA) : The subject is under consideration and no decisions have so far been reached.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : May I know whether the Government have received a memorandum from the people of the districts concerned regarding the Nandikonda Project ?

SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA : There is nothing on record before me, of that nature. There has been no communication from the Government of Madras in this connection.

SHRI P. V. NARAYANA : Has the recommendation been received by the Central Government here from the Madras Government to the effect that the Krishna Pennar Project should be given effect to or implemented and that preliminary investigation should start ?