

RAILWAY RESTAURANT IN TAX ARREARS

*657. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restaurant run by the Railway Catering Department at Waltair Railway Station was in arrears of tax to the tune of Rs. 21,000 to the Commercial Tax Department of the State Government;

(b) whether the officers of the Commercial Tax Department went to the restaurant on the 27th March, 1968 to attach the properties of the restaurant in this connection; and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-payment of taxes ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (c) No, Sir. In response to two demand notices received from the Sales Tax Authorities of Andhra Pradesh for payment of Sales Tax for the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 in respect of the Railway Catering Units at Waltair, Vizianagram and Palasa the Railway paid Rs. 15,312, and disputed liability for the sum of Rs. 18,176.62. Appeals in regard to the disputed amount were filed with the Assistant Commissioner of Commercial Taxes and are pending decision.

(b) No. Sir.

IMPORT OF WOOL FOR GARMENTS OF ARMED FORCES

*658. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether investigation into the import of wool worth crores of rupees for providing woollen garments to the Armed Forces in the year 1962-63 which was far in excess of requirements, has since been completed;

(b) whether any Defence Officers have been indicted by the Investigating Authority; and

(c) if so, the nature of this indiction and the punishment given to the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The investigations in respect of import of wool for meeting Defence requirements during 1962-63 have been completed.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Does not arise.

DETECTION AND SURVEY OF MINERALS

*659. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

SHRI SUNDER MANI
PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of minerals which have so far been detected and surveyed in each State by the Department of Geological Survey of India and the State-wise location, area of deposit, the quantity and quality or percentage of each mineral;

(b) the policy adopted by Government for exploitation of these minerals and for granting of leases to either corporations or individual persons;

(c) the number of mines leased out to (i) Public Sector Corporations, (ii) Private persons and (iii) Companies in different States with the details of the area of lease, lease amount and the period of lease in each case; and

(d) the total annual revenue by way of royalty and dead rent derived separately from (i) public sector corporations and (ii) individual persons and companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The policy of Government about exploitation of minerals is laid down in the Industrial Policy Resolution of the 30th April, 1956, and the grant of leases is governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed there under.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

JUTE REQUIREMENTS

*660. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimate of the crop of jute during the current season;

(b) what is the requirement of raw jute by jute mill industry for the current year; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the deficit, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) It is too early to give a precise quantitative idea of the size of the current season's crop. Due to lack of rains and subsequent floods, a shortage is anticipated.

(b) 68 lakh bales.

(c) Government have already authorised the import of 75,000 bales of superior quality jute to meet the immediate requirements. The question of further imports is being considered.

IMPORT OF DAIRY EQUIPMENT

*661. SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : PROF.

SAIYID NURUL SHRI A. P.

CHATTERJEE : HASAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry issued instructions in June 1968 that in order to utilise the indigenous installed capacity for dairy machinery, there should be no import of dairy equipment either by purchase or under aid or as gift;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in August, 1968, the Ministry agreed to permit M/s. Haryana Milk Foods to import capital equipment worth Rs. 8 lakhs from Denmark; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for a change in policy in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI 'AHMED) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) In June, 1968, instructions have been issued to all concerned that pro-

posals involving import of dairy equipment, whether under Aid or as gifts, should invariably be referred to the Director-General of Technical Development in the first instance for obtaining clearance from the indigenous angle.

(b) and (c) M/s. Haryana Milk Foods had submitted a proposal in September, 1966 for setting up a medium scale unit in District Karnal (Haryana) for the manufacture of milk products. The proposal involved a total requirement of capital equipment of Rs. 22.5 lakhs, of which equipment valued at Rs. 14.50 lakhs was proposed to be imported. The list of equipment to be imported was scrutinised by the Directorate General of Technical Development, which agreed to imports of only Rs. 8 lakhs. The case was considered by the Capital Goods Committee on April 17, 1967, and it was decided to note the requirements of Rs. 8 lakhs for being provided from future Danish credit.

In June, 1967, the firm reported that they had located suppliers in the German Democratic Republic, who would be able to supply the items cleared by the Directorate General of Technical Development. As there was no certainty about the availability of Danish credit, the firm wanted permission to effect imports from the GDR. This was agreed to after again obtaining the clearance of the D. G. T. D. from the indigenous angle and an import licence was issued in April, 1968 for Rs. eight lakhs.

In July, 1968, the firm reported that the suppliers in the GDR had declined to supply the equipment previously offered as these were no longer in their export programme. The firm, therefore, requested for a change in source of import from the GDR to Denmark, as was originally proposed. As the Danish credit had, by then, become available, the request was agreed to in August, 1968.

It will be seen that the imports by M/s. Haryana Milk Food had been cleared by the DGTD in the usual manner and items of equipment likely to be domestically available had been deleted from the original request for imports.