

MORARJI R. DESAI : (a) and (b) The Administrative Reforms Commission in their Report on "Public Sector Undertakings" has recommended that all necessary steps should be taken to reduce and eliminate the dependence on deputationists in manning top posts in the public sector. This recommendation is under consideration of Government.

TSALE OF HAW MATERIAL BY ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES (ASSAM) LTD.

1283. SHRI SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Associated Industries (Assam) Ltd. of Chandrapur, Gauhati, Assam sold out the raw materials imported for their Chemical Fertiliser Plants;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the factory under Associated Industries (Assam) Ltd. at Chandrapur, Gauhati, Assam, where the Government of Assam, the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, the Assam Financial Corporation and the Industries Department of the Government of Assam invested a considerable amount, produced and sold substandard fertilisers; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, whether any enquiry has been made in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Govt. of India are not aware of any sale of fertiliser raw-materials or sub-standard fertilisers by the Associated Industries (Assam) Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

^tTransferred from the 26th August, 1968.

^t COASTAL TRADE

1444. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that coastal trade has been reserved for Indian shipping only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the foreign oil companies are using foreign tankers;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India in regard thereto; and

(d) what is the estimated loss to Government on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) The coastal trade of India is reserved for Indian Shipping under Section 407 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and from 1953 onwards, the entire dry cargo traffic is being catered for by Indian Ships.

(b) and (c) No foreign flag vessels can be utilised for the coastal trade of petroleum products without a certificate having been granted by the Director General of Shipping, Bombay to the effect that Indian flag vessels are not available for the desired coastal movement. The Reserve Bank has issued instructions not to release foreign exchange in the absence of such a certificate from the Director General of Shipping.

(d) Does not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

ENQUIRY RE CERTAIN MATTERS

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्

SHRI CHANDRA GHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh) : I am also rising on a point of order.