

How much more coal has been transported every month?

The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The position in regard to certain areas, particularly in the section between the Bengal-Bihar coal belt and Mughalsarai, has definitely improved in regard to coal transport. Originally the movement by railway wagons was somewhere about 3440 per day. It has now been stepped up to round about 3830 wagons per day.

Secondly all the coal that is available is being lifted from time to time.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: On this question we want to know not the individual supply to the consumers. We want to know whether the scheme often repeated on the floor of this House by the Mines and Fuel Minister regarding the movement of coal by road and river is being implemented or is put under cold storage.

Shri Hajarnavis: No, Sir. We are working on that scheme. The first steps will be taken within one month: that is what we hope.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: What progress has been made with regard to the project for taking Jharia coal to Mokameh and then to Allahabad?

Shri Hajarnavis: I just answered that question.

Mr. Speaker: Each scheme cannot be taken and replied.

Shri Hajarnavis: We shall be taking the first steps within a month's time. I said that we hoped so.

Mr. Speaker: I am disallowing the question saying that we cannot go into details but the Minister is answering!

Shri Hajarnavis: I express my regret.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: In the last session of Parliament it was given out that coal would be dumped in Patna at two or three places in the lean season. Has that been done and if so what is the quantity?

Shri Hajarnavis: We are thinking about it but about Patna I have no specific information.

Mr. Speaker: He cannot deal with every station in this general question.

Shri Man Singh Patel: Is there any proposal before the Government to form an inter-state road transport corporation to move this coal to the far off places on the western side of the country?

Shri Hajarnavis: That hardly arises out of this question.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Is there any proposal to build up a coal dump at Vizagapatam to take off the load from the road? My question arises like this, Sir. It will facilitate the movement of coal by sea and so it is a relevant question.

Mr. Speaker: It is not relevant because we are on the road; not in the sea.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether any progress has been made in the transport of coal through pipelines?

Shri Hajarnavis: That hardly arises out of this question.

Foreign Exchange Position

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*93. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Umanath:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Tan Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to foreign exchange; and

(b) whether the position has improved to any extent?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) and (b). India's foreign exchange position continues to remain

under pressure. The foreign balances of the Reserve Bank, which amounted to about Rs. 128 crores at the end of March, 1962, have declined to Rs. 93.62 crores as on 2-11-1962.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: How does

the present figure compare with the previous year's figures?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I said that there had been a very severe decline in the foreign exchange position. The present decline is quite severe compared to the decline in the earlier two years.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Some steps were taken to improve the position of foreign exchange in India. May I know whether those steps have borne fruit?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Since those steps have been taken, there has been more or less a balance in the foreign exchange position. From Rs. 94.10 crores, it became Rs. 93.62 crores. The latest figure is Rs. 93.62 crores.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether any steps have been taken to check the smuggling of gold with a view to conserve foreign exchange and, if so, what were those steps and what has been the result of such steps?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Steps have been taken and will be taken from time to time as the situation arises. But certainly the Government is quite aware of the serious problem of smuggling of gold, and the Government is taking all steps to check it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In view of the present emergency and also in view of the fact that we are short of foreign exchange, I want to know whether the Government intend seizing all foreign assets in various foreign banks and whether any instructions have been issued in that regard?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: No, Sir. There is no proposal to seize foreign assets.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are the items involving foreign exchange on which curbs have been put during the current year when the foreign exchange position is so bad?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: It is a very wide question. He can table a separate question.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; Shri Sham Lal Saraf.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: In view of the fact that we need foreign exchange to meet our requirements for the import of capital goods and machinery, may I know what steps the Government propose to take to meet all those requirements as far as the present year is concerned?

Mr. Speaker: That is a very wide question.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: It is a very pertinent question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It is quite pertinent as well as important, but it cannot be answered during the Question Hour.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Are the Indians living abroad and the invitees to foreign countries as well as authors earning foreign exchange by royalties required to surrender all the foreign exchange to the Reserve Bank in the first instance and, if so, what is the net accrual of foreign exchange to this country from such surrenders by Indian invitees abroad and authors?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I do not have the figures and all the details about them—how much foreign exchange was there, etc. It is very difficult to give them.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: After the Minister had imposed, and rightly so, very rigorous curbs on foreign travel in June last, may I know how many delegations, official and non-official, were allowed foreign exchange to visit foreign countries and along with the members of the delegations, how many non-essential personnel such as wives, for instance—non-essential in

that context—and assistants, etc., were allowed?

Mr. Speaker: It is very remotely connected.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Minister is prepared to answer it. How much foreign exchange was allowed for them?

Mr. Speaker: If the Minister is prepared to answer, I would have no objection, but it is very remote:

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: How, Sir? I cannot understand how it is very remote.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Sir, on a point of order, I want to know how it does not arise. It arises, I submit, directly out of this question.

Mr. Speaker: I have said that it is very remotely connected with the question that is there.

Dr. K. L. Rao: May I know whether the Government would give incentive awards for those technicians who may find out technique which will avoid foreign exchange expenditure?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Sir, you did say that it is connected, though remotely. How then can you rule it out, Sir? There is an emergency and I believe the Minister realises the point. I want to know how much of foreign exchange was allowed to the delegations.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Morarka:

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I do not know how you disallow it. I cannot stand the logic of it. I am sorry.

Shri Morarka: May I know what is the total withdrawal from the International Monetary Fund and also whether this foreign exchange balance of Rs. 93 crores is arrived at

after taking into consideration the amount that we have drawn from the International Monetary Fund or without that?

Shri Morarji Desai: It contains a withdrawal from the Monetary Fund.

Mr. Speaker: Sometimes, I have this very regrettable necessity or opportunity of differing from esteemed friends of mine but then they too have also to suffer!

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I beg to submit with all respect and with all humility that when you said that it is remotely or least connected, you did not say that it is not connected at all. Otherwise, I would not have raised the point.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow those questions that are remotely connected. I said it is very remotely connected and therefore I would not allow it. When I accept that it is remotely connected, I disallow that.

Next question—Shri Gopalan.

Research Scholars in Banaras Hindu University

*94. { ⁺ Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri P. Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research scholars conducting their research work in Banaras Hindu University who have been awarded scholarships since July, 1961 and who have not been paid the same as yet; and

(b) what action Government are planning to take to make early payments?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know what is the delay in collecting the