

से मिलेंगी, जिससे कीमत कुछ फेयर होगी और अच्छी चीजें मिल सकेंगी।

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether these wholesale co-operative stores will have branches or will supply consumer goods to the co-operative societies, or will they also purchase other agricultural products that will be available within their territory?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: They are principally to supply consumer goods. To the extent consumer goods are necessary they can purchase them from the producer society.

श्री विश्राम प्रसाद : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो डेफिसिट एरियाज हैं, जैसे कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश है, वहां पर प्राइसिज को बढ़ने से रोकने के लिये क्या विचार किया जा रहा है ?

श्री श्यामधर मिश्र इन होललेल स्टोर्ज का ताल्लुक डेफिसिट एरियाज या नान-डेफिसिट एरियाज से कतई नहीं है। ये तो सप्लाइ सांमायटीज होंगी, जो कि सामान प्रोव्द्योर करेंगी, जो कि सामान को डेफिसिट एरियाज में पहुंचावेंगी उन जगहों में, जो कि नान-डेफिसिट एरियाज हैं, जहां सामान बनते हैं। मिमाल के तौर पर हो सकता है कि कल लिवर ब्रदर्स, बम्बई, से सामान लेना पड़े दिल्ली के लिये। हो सकता है कि आनन्द सोमायटी से बटर लेना पड़े राजस्थान के लिये। इसलिये इस बारे में डेफिसिट और नान-डेफिसिट एरियाज का प्रश्न नहीं उठना है।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: How far have the Government decided to widen the area of preferences granted to the co-operatives vis-a-vis the private trade?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Co-operatives are being given preference only with that end in view. They are able to supply goods at a fair price and the goods are unadulterated. The difference in the price factor may not

be very much. As regards assistance from the Government, there are various forms of assistance already in the scheme.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Could question No. 413 also be answered along with that?

An Hon. Member: That is slightly different from this.

Mr. Speaker: All right; then that may be answered separately.

Agreement with Pakistani Ratings and Joint Steamer Companies

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*402. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agreement reached between the Pakistani Ratings and the Joint Steamer Companies has adversely affected the Indian employes;

(b) whether Indian employees numbering 6000 of Calcutta establishments have made a representation to Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken to mitigate their hardships; and

(d) whether a representative has been included in four party committee?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (c). The interests of the Indian employees are not adversely affected by the agreement between the Joint Steamer Companies and their Pakistani ratings. The question of mitigating any hardship resulting from the agreement to the Indian employees of the Companies does not, therefore, arise. A copy of the Memorandum of Settlement between the management of the Companies and the crew who

struck work is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-704/63].

(b) and (d). A memorandum has been submitted to the Government of India by representatives of several unions of the employees of the Joint Steamer Companies. The memorandum urges inclusion of a representative of these unions in any committee that may be set up to examine the issues which have not yet been settled between the Joint Steamer Companies and the Pakistani ratings, expresses fears of retrenchment in the event of the Companies setting up a "Crews Registration and Payment Office" in Pakistan and protests against recognition of any union representing Pakistani employees alone.

The Joint Steamer Companies had requested the participation of the Government of India and Pakistan in a discussion of two outstanding issues raised by the crew who struck work, viz., (i) retention of the existing Pakistani crew till their death, retirement, resignation or dismissal; and (ii) expatriation to Pakistan of 50 per cent of their wages, gratuity, provident fund and compensation benefits in India. The Government of India have agreed to participate in the proposed committee. A committee has not, however, been constituted so far.

As regards the Indian employees' fear of retrenchment as a result of the agreement between the Joint Steamer Companies and the Pakistani ratings, it has no basis.

As for recognition of a union of Pakistani employees, no such union has been recognised in West Bengal.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement it appears that the memorandum submitted by the Union wanted inclusion of a representative of the Union in the committee which was to decide the outstanding demands of both the Pakistani and Indian ratings. Since the Joint Steamer Company has requested the Government of

India for participation in it and the committee has not yet been formed, may I know whether their representative will be included in the Committee?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As that matter exclusively concerns the Pakistani ratings, it was considered advisable that there is not much need of a representative of the Indian seamen to be appointed on this committee. So far as constituting the committee is concerned, the Government of Pakistan have not yet communicated the name of their nominee or representative on this committee. When that is done, the Government of India would also do likewise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether prior to this also he Pakistani ratings had threatened many times that they would stop work, and if so, what positive steps have been taken by Government to Indianise the whole service? May I know whether Government are moving towards the Indianisation of the service?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is true that we have been facing a good deal of difficulty from time to time. That is why we have to get a smooth service running, and for that we have allowed the Joint Steamer Companies to operate. We have supported them as best as we could. We have also tried to see that Pakistani ratings too give us the best of service. At the same time we want that progressively these services should be Indianised, and the crew should be Indianised. For that we should get unhampered right of navigation in the Brahmaputra which to all intents and purposes has been used as an international water way by us so far. Therefore, our intention is to continue to use it as such but we are simultaneously developing also alternative modes of transport too.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I find from the statement laid on the Table that according to item No. 9 of the settle-

ment provision has been made to permit the Pakistani employees to constitute a union registered in India, and composed entirely of Pakistani employees, with office-bearers entirely of Pakistani nationality and having legal and other advisers in Pakistan. I want to know whether this provision does not run counter to the existing labour laws in this country, and whether Government gave their prior approval to such a provision.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have got a copy of the memorandum of settlement, and item 9(1) says....

Mr. Speaker: About the legal opinion, the hon. Minister need not answer. He may answer the second part of the question namely whether Government have given approval.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am only replying to the factual position. In regard to the factual position, item 9 (1) reads as follows:

"The Companies are unable to recognise a Union registered or based in Pakistan."

Similarly, the last sentence of the statement laid on the Table says:

"As for recognition of a union of Pakistani employees, no such union has been recognised in West Bengal."

So, the question does not arise.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: That was not the question that I asked.

Mr. Speaker: He was asking about the legal opinion.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I am not asking any question about the legal opinion.

Mr. Speaker: He wanted to know whether this ran counter to the present labour laws. That question cannot be answered now.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I am talking only about the second part.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether Government gave their approval to this.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I want to know whether Government have given their approval to the formation of a union registered in India composed only of Pakistani ratings.

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is no question of any approval being given by the Government of India. We do not give approval for the constitution of any union. No such approval is needed. But in case any such union is constituted, the concerned authorities who administer the law will go into the whole question; they will examine whether it is so permissible under the law, and it can be done only if it is permissible. There is no question of our approval. We have not given any approval for such a thing.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि आसाम के माय जो हमारी लाइफ-लाइन है, उसके तहफूज की गारण्टी का भी ख्याल रखा गया है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : पता नहीं, इसका क्या जवाब दिया जाये ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The question asked by Shri Indrajit Gupta is very clear. The statement showing the settlement is very clear, and it says that the union shall be recognised. It reads thus:

"The Companies are prepared to recognise a Union representing their Pakistani employees with office-bearers entirely of Pakistani nationality, provided this Union is registered in Calcutta, is properly constituted and represents a reasonable number of the Companies' Pakistani employees."

May I know whether Government have applied their mind to this that a union comprising entirely of Pakistani ratings is to be registered in Calcutta? How could it be done? How could it be recognised?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have no doubt in my mind that this particular feature of the position will be examined and

considered fully by the concerned authorities. Since you have warned me already, I cannot enter into the legal position of the whole thing now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the West Bengal Government have approved of it.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The West Bengal Government have not approved of it.

Mr. Speaker: It is not the legal position that they are asking for. It is about the other provision that has been made there that they will allow such a union to be formed. . . .

Shri Daji: And recognised.

Mr. Speaker: . . . and it would be recognised when it consists entirely of Pakistanis and it can be registered in Calcutta. That is what is put down in the statement.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The essential part of this particular provision is that the union is to be registered in Calcutta. Registration cannot take place without the registering authority approving of the particular union. That registration cannot take place, and it cannot be allowed by the registering authority unless it conforms to the law. As to how that law will be interpreted, you have warned me already not to enter into it. I think it cannot be registered like that.

Cases of Sabotage in Railways

*403. **Shri Maheshwar Naik:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have occurred certain cases of sabotage intended to dislocate the railway transport system, more specially in areas of strategic importance since the State of Emergency was declared in the country;

(b) how many such cases have so far occurred; and

(c) whether the railway administration has re-inforced the precautionary measures to maintain security of our railway system?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No. case of sabotage as such has so far been proved.

(c) Yes Sir.

Shri Maheshwar Naik: May I know whether there was any case whatsoever, as was reported in some papers, of obstructions being put on the railways in the North East Frontier Agency by putting boulders and thus obstructing the passage of war materials in the NEFA area?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There have been some cases of what is termed as tampering with the track. We have not been able to prove that they were cases of sabotage. During the period of the emergency when I visited that area, one incident took place where one person put an iron sleeper on the track. Later it was found that he was drunk, and he was also run over in the process.

Shri Maheshwar Naik: May I know whether the Railway Administration is taking any steps whatsoever so that no such incidents recur in the NEFA area?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes. We are taking plenty of precautions. We are patrolling the tracks and even by instructional propaganda in the adjoining villages, we are taking all precautionary steps to ensure that no acts of sabotage are allowed.

Mr. Speaker: If one gets drunk, how would the Minister be able to say whether he was drunk?

Shri Hem Barua: On a previous occasion, the Railway Administration was pleased enough to let me know of three such cases during the emergency in Assam where people tried to