

Shri Banga: May I know if effective publicity is given to the fact that this concession is being made in the interests of the farmers, and have Government received any complaints from any farmers that this concession has actually not reached them?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It has been publicised through notification and it is well-known. But we have received representations that often times the manufacturers appropriate the refund and the farmers are not able to get it. So we are at present considering a proposal which has been made to us, that tractors which are used by farmers are only those tractors which are below 50 DBR power. If it is true statistically, then we might exempt them altogether. Therefore, this is one of the considerations which we are examining, and we are also trying to see that the actual benefit is utilised by the farmers themselves.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether in the near future there is any hope of the tractors coming within the purchasing capacity of an average peasant proprietor?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: That is our hope, and we are trying to do everything to lift up the farmers.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the same concession is being extended to co-operative farms?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is extended to every farmer.

Palai Central Bank in Liquidation

+

*927. { **Shri P. Kunhan:**
 { **Shri Eswara Reddy:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1075 on the 24th January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the proposal for the declaration of a dividend to the depositors of Palai Central Bank has been placed before the Kerala High Court by the official liquidator; and

(b) if so, when the dividend is likely to be paid to the depositors?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):
(a) Yes.

(b) The dividend is expected to be declared about the end of April 1963 and the payment will commence in June 1963.

Shri P. Kunhan: The bank went into liquidation in August, 1960. So far only one dividend has been paid. May I know what is the reason for delaying the second dividend?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: There is no delay. We have to make the assessment, get all the assets valued and recovered. Apart from one dividend of 40 naye paise per rupee we have made other payments like preferential payments, liquidation expenses and other payments to secure debts. Everybody below Rs. 250 has been paid. We have made payment to the extent of Rs. 5,56,66,747. Another dividend of 12 naye paise, in addition, is going to be declared.

Shri P. Kunhan: May I know whether it is a fact that prior to liquidation the banks had paid income-tax amounting to a few lakhs of rupees on the plea that the bank had made profits when no such profits were made actually; if so, is there any possibility of returning this amount to the liquidator for distributing it among the depositors?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The liquidator is appointed by the High Court. It is for them to decide.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know whether it is a fact that persons who have taken loans on the security of fixed deposits are not allowed to adjust their dues out of the moneys due to them?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: All these matters are being considered by the liquidator. We have nothing to do about them. The High Court and the liquidator are looking into them.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether the liquidator has finally determined the total amount of advances which have been found to be irrecoverable or sticky?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No finality as regards that has been determined. The second dividend of 12 paise has been declared in view of the assets, both liquid and realised. But he has not come to any final decision so far as this matter is concerned.

Shri Kappen: May I know what is the total cost of liquidation so far?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The liquidation expenses so far have been Rs. 12,44,871.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a petition filed by the official liquidator before the Kerala High Court for recovering Rs. 2,88,00,000 from the directors; if so, may I know how the liquidator is going to recover this amount?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: That matter is before the court.

"Smuggling along Coastline"

*928. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have recently been taken to build up a fleet of launches to advance anti-smuggling measures along the country's coastline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outlay on the programme to augment the present fleet of launches?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have decided to purchase 26 more launches over a period of four years for checking smuggling operations along the country's coastline. The deployment of the launches would depend not only on the numbers available but also on the

exigencies of the situation as it arises from time to time.

(c) The estimated expenditure on the purchase of the launches is Rs 45 lakhs approximately.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether any special scheme of incentives has been formulated, or is proposed to be formulated for those who undertake this very hazardous function of patrolling along our coastline for those who man the launches to patrol the coastline in order to prevent smuggling?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: They are the employees of the Customs Department. Normally, officers are expected to perform the duty without expectation of any reward. But, in some cases, when they apprehend somebody, or perform their duty in a way resulting in seizure of big amounts or at the cost of their lives, suitable rewards are given.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What would be the foreign exchange component of the approximate expenditure that has been indicated by the Minister for buying these launches?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Almost the entire Rs. 45 lakhs will be in foreign exchange, because it has to be purchased from abroad.

Water Supply for Greater Calcutta

*929. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial implications of the implementation of the W.H.O. team's recommendations for better water supply to endemic cholera area in the greater Calcutta region have been worked out;

(b) whether Government intend to give financial help to such implementation, and if so, to what extent; and

(c) the position regarding work on the projects involved?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) to