

Shri Satish Chandra: The quotas are allotted port-wise. The system of allotment was revised in 1956. About 40 per cent is reserved for co-operative societies and the rest is allotted to various shippers on a 'first come first served' basis.

Shri Dasappa: May I know why exports for March-August 1957 are less than half of the exports for March-August 1956.

Shri Satish Chandra: Exports to that degree were not possible due to lesser production and higher prices.

Shri Venkatasubbalah: From the statement laid on the Table of the House it is seen that production of onions during 1956-57 in Andhra was 158,000 tons, but at any time not more than 13,500 tons were allowed to be exported. May I know what is the reason for this restriction on exports?

Shri Satish Chandra: These quotas are allotted after taking into account the level of production and the requirements within the country.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether there are agricultural co-operative societies and, if so, in spite of all that, why no permits are given to the agricultural co-operative societies for export and why export permits are given to the merchants from outside?

Shri Satish Chandra: The hon. Member would have listened to my earlier answer. I said, 40 per cent of the quota is reserved for agricultural co-operative societies and is allotted on the recommendation of the State Governments.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Does it mean that 60 per cent of the quota is allowed to the merchants?

Shri Satish Chandra: At present, yes.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: If the agricultural co-operative societies are there, where is the necessity to give 60 per cent to the merchants? Why not it be given to the agricultural societies?

Shri Satish Chandra: The agricultural co-operative societies may

be allotted bigger quota if they develop. At present, they are not in a position to handle more than 40 per cent of the exports.

Shri Jadhav: Sir, on a point of information. This question, that is, Question No. 1146, was given as a short notice question. A deputation from Nasik district was here, and Nasik district is one of the biggest production centres of onion. This question was given on the 13th August, 1957, and it was admitted as a regular question.

Mr. Speaker: Does he want me to disallow this question. The hon. Members are under a curious impression that the moment they put down a Short Notice Question the Speaker, Minister, everybody, must rush to that question. It is open to me to allow or not to allow a question. If the Minister wants time, it is given. When a Short Notice Question is received, it is referred to the Minister. He may find it impossible to answer the question at short notice. If he is not able to reply, it is open to me to treat it as a Starred Question or an Unstarred Question or disallow it. If I do not find that it is a proper question to be answered at short notice, I would put it as a Starred Question and give the Member the opportunity to put supplementaries.

I now proceed to the Short Notice Question.

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Commercial Broadcasting in All India Radio

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Shri Radha Raman:

Shri M. E. Krishna:

N. Q. No. 19. **Shri N. C. Laskar:**

Shri J. E. Mehta:

Shri Raghunath Singh:

Shri R. S. Lal:

Shri Jadhav:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a speech

of the Minister for Irrigation and Power published in *Delhi Statesman* and other papers of the 17th August, 1957, regarding commercial broadcasting by the All India Radio;

(b) whether it is a fact, as has been reported in that speech, that Government have no settled policy regarding commercial broadcasting.

(c) whether Government agree, as has been reported in that speech, that the policy of All India Radio requires thorough overhaul, and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr Keskar): (a) to (d) The Minister of Irrigation and Power informs me that the report of his speech to which reference is made is not accurate. He did not refer to commercial broadcasting, nor did he say that the All India Radio required a thorough overhaul.

He referred to sponsored programmes which, according to him, did not mean commercial broadcasting or any kind of advertisements.

Radio programmes may be sponsored for advertisement purposes or other purposes.

It has been the settled policy of the Government not to have advertisements on the Radio or commercial broadcasting. It is not proposed to change this policy.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: If such is the impression of the Minister of Irrigation and Power, may I know why that report was not contradicted in time?

Dr. Keskar: That question may be addressed to the Minister of Irrigation.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether Government is considering the question of introducing sponsored programmes?

Dr. Keskar: As I explained in my answer, sponsored programmes may

be for advertisement purposes or other purposes, and as far as sponsored programmes are concerned, I might inform the House that from February, 1934, the Government of India has definitely decided on the policy that it will not allow sponsored programmes. This policy has been continued and even after Independence, the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was the first Minister for Information and Broadcasting, formally announced that Government will not allow advertising or commercial broadcasting of any type over the radio.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister said in reply to the original question that he has been informed by the Minister of Irrigation and Power that his speech did not refer to the commercial broadcasting programme and advertisement. But he did refer to sponsored programmes. Now, the Minister says that the policy is not to allow sponsored programmes. May I know then what will be the reply of the Minister regarding sponsored programmes, because that statement concerned itself with the sponsored programme of All-India Radio.

Dr. Keskar: It is not possible for me to try to find out the details of what somebody else said. What I am concerned with, and what I put before the House is the considered policy of the Government regarding this matter which has been made very clear many times not only by me but before me by other Ministers and responsible persons of the Government.

Shri Radha Raman: In view of the wrong impression created by this report published in various sections of the press, may I know whether the Minister of Information and Broadcasting had an opportunity of personally talking to the Minister of Irrigation and Power and explaining the situation and requesting him to contradict and clarify the position?

Dr. Keskar: He will do so if he considers it necessary.

Shri C. E. Pattabhi Raman: In view of the fact that even in England a committee has suggested that sponsored programmes should be discouraged, will the Government stick to its policy of preventing sponsored programmes?

Dr. Keskar: That is what I have just now stated.

Shri Ranga: Is it not generally understood by 'sponsored programme' that it does not comprehend or include any idea of commercial broadcasting but only certain programmes for which certain charitably-minded people or public-spirited people might donate sums and therefore a number of talks are given on various questions of non-political public interest?

Dr. Keskar: As I said in my answer, if the hon. Member had listened carefully, there might be programmes of the type to which he was referring, but, by and large, the majority of programmes which are known as sponsored programmes are sponsored by big commercial interests.

Shri M. E. Krishna: The hon. Minister had stated that the principal reason against commercial broadcasting is that the business community would like to advertise through the radio and would insist on a certain tune which would bring down the standard of the radio. May I know whether the Minister at any time convened a conference of all the business concerns of the country to find out a *via media* to maintain the standard and, at the same time, advertise through the radio?

Dr. Keskar: This is more of an argument as to whether it is desirable or not. I would remind the hon. Member that only a few days back we had the budget debate regarding this Ministry and this question was, I think, gone quite thoroughly into.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Printing Press at Gangtok

*1125. **Shri Keshava:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the progress, if any, made in establishing a Government printing press at Gangtok in Sikkim; and

(b) the estimated cost of this project?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The proposal for the setting up of a Press at Gangtok has been deferred for the time being owing to financial stringency and the tight foreign exchange position.

(b) The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 7.42 lakhs as non-recurring and there will be an annual recurring expenditure of about Rs. 1,73,000.

Prohibition Measures

*1128. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has pleaded inability to proceed further with the prohibition measures during the Second Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, its name?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of West Bengal.

State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd.

*1129. **Shri Bimal Ghose:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount advanced by the State Trading Corporation during 1956-57 to importers of foreign countries (country-wise) to enable them to make payments for their purchases from India;

(b) the terms and conditions for making such advances; and