

stating the hardships that they will be put to by not being admitted into the recognised stock exchanges?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sure that anybody that has been functioning freely hitherto, when some kind of restriction is put and is not able to comply with the requirement, protests to the Government. Such protests had come. As I have mentioned before, we have tried to see if some kind of amalgamation or some kind of reconciliation of the various interests could not be made. In the case of Bombay, particularly, I think the promulgation of this Act was kept in abeyance for quite a number of months in order to see that the two associations dealing with securities could come together. The real fact was that the association that wanted to come in and is not recognised wanted to do so without any condition imposed on it either in the matter of payment of fees or in the matter of deposits. Such being the case, it is very difficult for the Government to do anything in this matter.

Sealing off of Ports

*1201. **Shri K. U. Parmar:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that some ports of Saurashtra in Bombay State have been recently sealed for the purposes of foreign trade;

(b) if so, the number of such sealed ports; and

(c) the reasons for sealing such ports for foreign trade?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. B. Bhagat): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The two ports of Beyt and Madhavpur in Saurashtra in the Bombay State have been closed for the purposes of foreign trade since July, 1957.

(c) The reason for closing these ports to foreign trade was that there had been no foreign import/export traffic at these ports since 1953-54.

Shri K. U. Parmar: May I know whether it is a fact that some 16 ports on the border line were sealed only for the reason that smuggling of gold was done there?

Shri B. B. Bhagat: The 16 ports were sealed for the same reason that there was no foreign import export traffic.

Shri M. B. Thakore: May I know from the hon. Minister whether a large volume of trade coastal as well as internal suffers heavily because of the sealing of such ports?

Shri B. B. Bhagat: Coastal trade is still going on in these ports.

Shri S. C. Samants: May I know whether, before sealing these ports, attempts were made to divert some goods from the Bombay port to these ports?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The position is this. Nobody made any attempt really. I have got a statement which, if hon. Members would like, I will place* on the Table of the House which indicates, while these ports have a coastal trade, they have really no foreign trade at all. They have had no foreign trade during 1953-54 and 1954-55. These 16 ports have no foreign trade at all and it is difficult for us to keep the staff necessary for the purpose of controlling foreign trade which is non-existent.

Shri Sonavane: May I know whether the congestion at the three major ports is the result of sealing of these 16 ports?

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid it is rather remote. It cannot be a cause and effect.

Shri K. U. Parmar: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a news appeared in the press that the reason for sealing was that they are only smuggling gold and no other reason?

Mr. Speaker: An hon. Member put that question already. The hon. Minis-

*Placed on the Table later in the day [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 57-A.]

ter has replied that there is want of experts.

Janata Policy

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*1202. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many Janata Policies of the Life Insurance Corporation of India were sold at the time of its inauguration in Bombay;

(b) whether any check-up was made as to the correctness of figures; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) 290.

(b) yes.

(c) All the policies sold were genuine.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Has the Government received any representation from anybody questioning the correctness of these figures and if so may I know whether it has made any check-up about it?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I am not aware of any representation having been received by us.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the attention of the Government was drawn to a speech made by the Chairman of the Corporation to the effect that the Janata scheme has failed to create popular enthusiasm and it is not working satisfactorily, and if so, has the Government evaluated the reasons for this lack of popular enthusiasm?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I am not aware of that statement. Our impression is that it has aroused popular enthusiasm.

Shri Nathwani: May I know whether this business of Janata policy is done by the Corporation with a view to its profitability or not and if so whether separate accounts are kept or not?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: This policy was started only in May last, and this is to reach the smaller section and the

rural areas and the working population. As far as profitability is concerned, in drawing up the details of the scheme that must have been one of the considerations, and only when the accounts are ready can we know about the position. I am not in a position to answer very precisely the question of the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: Shri K. B. Malvia. Absent.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Can I ask a question on this?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member tabling question is not there.

Riots in Ramanathapuram

*1204. { Shri B. K. Galkwad:
Shri Siva Raj:
Shri B. C. Kamble:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes toured recently the disturbed areas of Ramanathapuram in Madras;

(b) if so, whether he has submitted any report to Government on the situation; and

(c) whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. Such reports are as a rule confidential, all the more so where they deal with matters concerning State Governments.

Shri B. K. Galkwad: Last time the reply was given by the hon. Deputy Minister that 2,800 houses were burnt. It means that there must be not less than 10,000 people who have become homeless. May I know whether the Government have started any camp like the refugee camps for these people till they are settled as before; if not why not?

Shrimati Alva: No, Sir.