

types of quotas and the figures do not give a comprehensive view of steel consumption in various cities or for various uses. So, to draw conclusions of a general character from this would not be fair. If any hon. Member has any specific instance in his mind, I shall be glad to be benefited by that instance; I will certainly look into it if details are given to me... (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is no good all of us rising with respect to the same question which has taken so many minutes. I have suggested and the hon. Minister has agreed, he would prepare a scheme and see that no such complaints arise in the future. He will place that scheme on the Table of the House during the next session. If still the hon. Members have suggestions to make, I will allow a discussion on that scheme in this House to their satisfaction.

Export of Furnace Oil

*1007. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the export of furnace oil to Ceylon, Aden and Japan from India has decreased from 58.09 in 1958 to 32.97 lacs of rupees in 1959 and India has lost her market of Aden and Japan completely?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Yes, Sir. Exports of Furnace Oil have declined mainly because of increased consumption in the country.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether the export of furnace oil has decreased by 50 per cent in one year? Who is competing with India in Aden, Japan and Ceylon markets where we were exporting our oil?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not specifically know who is competing with us in those places. But our consumption inside the country has increased appreciably in the last 2½ years. We were exporting furnace oil before 1960 but we stopped ex-

porting furnace oil after that, because of two main factors: firstly, local consumption due to the increase in the industrial activity of the country and secondly, one of the refineries has reduced the production of furnace oil and diverted its machinery to the production of road-dressing material, such as, asphalt, etc. Therefore, furnace oil is no longer an exportable commodity. I am afraid that for sometime to come we will have to import furnace oil for our own industrial purposes.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if the decrease in the production of furnace oil or the increase in the internal consumption is the sole reason for the decrease in the export of furnace oil?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir; these are more or less the sole reasons for stoppage of exports.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Have we found new markets for our furnace oil?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have export market but the point is, as I have already explained, we have no exportable oil.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: What steps are the Government taking to increase the production of furnace oil in the country?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As soon as our two refineries in the public sector go on stream, we shall have more furnace oil. But because of the fast rate at which furnace oil consumption is increasing in our country due to rapid industrialisation, we will have to import furnace oil for some years unless we have more refineries and the consumption of petroleum products attains a level in which production of furnace oil becomes economical.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: I put question No. 1008.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): The visit to Assam.....

Some Hon. Members: The answer is not audible; we do not hear what he says.

Shri Ranga: Cannot the other Ministers be asked to read it? Where is the need for the Home Minister to read it? There are other Ministers from the same department and they can read the answer.

Home Minister's Visit to Assam

*1008. **Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what was the object of his visiting Assam in October;

(b) whether he was invited by the Government of Assam, if so, for what purpose;

(c) whether he made any attempt to solve the official language problem and if so, what formula did he evolve for the purpose; and

(d) whether his formula was accepted by the Assam Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The visit to Assam was at the invitation of the State Chief Minister with a view to securing the necessary atmosphere so that the difficulties over the official language question of the State might be resolved.

(c) During the course of discussions with the State Ministers and other interests concerned, the following formula emerged:

(i) Assamese and Hindi (English to continue until it is replaced by Hindi) might be recognised as two official languages of the State;

(ii) English (to be later replaced by Hindi) might be used for official purposes in the Assam Secretariat and in the offices of Heads of Departments; and

(iii) The language to be used for official purposes at the district

level may be Assamese in the districts of Assam Valley, Bengali in the Cachar district and the language to be determined by each district council in each autonomous district.

(d) The Bill as introduced in the State Legislative Assembly was broadly on the lines of this formula.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: May I know whether the Bill as introduced in the Assam Legislative Assembly makes Assamese the only official language of Assam? How does the hon. Home Minister reconcile his formula with the Bill that has been introduced and passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly?

Shri G. B. Pant: Not the Bill; to say so, I think, is incorrect. The Bill was amended and the Act is in the form stated by the hon. Member. The Bill was just as I have stated here.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: The Bill was amended. It was amended at the instance of the Government itself. In the course of one day, in the course of 24 hours they amended it thrice. They first refused to accept the amendment proposed by the Chief Minister, then they accepted it and then again rejected it. These three different phases passed during 24 hours. Therefore, how does the Home Minister say that the Assam Government was not responsible for not accepting the formula that he had suggested?

Shri G. B. Pant: I did not say anything like that. I only said that the Bill was in the form in which I had stated.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Act as passed after the necessary amendments follows the lines suggested by the Home Minister; if not, whether the Government of India would try to intervene and persuade that Government to amend the Act on the lines suggested by the Home Minister originally?

Shri G. B. Pant: The Bill, in so far as the Bill had been amended, does not agree with the suggestions made