

Shri M. M. Das: All of them have not been selected. The Russians in their invitation suggested the names of certain persons who wanted to go to Russia. The names are as follows: Dr C. V. Raman, Prof M. S Thacker, Prof. Srimvasan, the then Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Dr Lahiri, Director of the Fuel Research Institute, and Dr. Naga, presumably Dr. Nagin Chaudhury of the Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta. And out of these, I think only one, Dr Lahiri, Director of the Fuel Research Institute, is going to Russia. For various reasons the other scientists could not be included.

Movement of Foodgrains to Bihar

†

S.N.Q. { Shri P. G. Sen:
No. 14. { Shri A. K. Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains booked from Visakhapatnam and other places of storage have reached their destination in the scarcity areas of Bihar; and

(b) when were orders for the despatch to Purnia given and when the foodgrains are expected to reach there in view of the growing distress in Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) A portion of the foodgrains booked has reached the destinations and the balance is in transit

(b) From 1-5-1957 upto 27-5-1957, 57 B.G. wagons were booked from Bombay and Visakapatnam to Purnia of which 22 wagons were from Bombay 37 M.G. wagons of foodgrains have already reached that station, and intimation has been received from the Civil Authorities that further wagons are not immediately required at Purnia and that further consignments, over and above those in transit, are not for the time being required there.

Shri P. G. Sen: Has any priority been given to such consignments?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. Top priority is given to the movement of foodgrains to deficit areas.

Shri P. C. Sen: May I know the time taken in this transhipment?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Some of the wagons were booked from Visakapatnam on 10th May, and as I have stated in my reply they have reached there already, and in fact, the District Supply Officer feels so satisfied with the movement of foodgrains that he says he does not require any more

Taxation Proposals

S.N.Q. No. 15. **Shri B. C. Kamble:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only about a week prior to the Minister of Finance placing the taxation proposals before Lok Sabha about 1,65,000 (one lakh and sixty five thousands) tons of sugar was released by Government from factory godowns and that almost the whole quantity of sugar was immediately sold out in about 5 to 6 days;

(b) whether any other commodities which were proposed to be taxed, were released by Government during the period commencing from the discussion of taxation proposals by Government and ending with placing of the proposals before Lok Sabha; and

(c) if so, quantum of each of these commodities?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir. On the 6th of May, 1,63,558 tons is reported to have been released for sale in the internal market under the provision of the Sugar Control Order. The quantity released bears comparison with the quantities usually released from time to time under this Order. For instance

The release on 25th July 1955 was			
" 23rd Aug. 1956 "	"	158,654	tons
" 11th Oct " "	"	160,869	"
" 12th Nov " "	"	162,142	"
" 1 st Dec " "	"	160,045	"
" 23rd Jan 1957 "	"	230,965	"
" 21st Feb " "	"	177,402	"
" 28th Mar " "	"	164,824	"
		167,372	"

The later part of the Question seems to indicate that releases under the Sugar Control Order are directly tied up with the collection of duties by Excise Officials. In fact this is not so. Collection of duty is normally made only at the time of despatch from the mill godowns.

On the 6th of May, the mills had a balance of free stocks of some 60,000 tons which together with the release made that day amounted to 2,23,000 tons and odd. Free stocks with the factories on 15th May 1957 was 1,27,000 tons and odd and this quantity would bear the increased excise duty.

(b) No other commodity excepting steel and cement on which Central Excise duties are levied are subject to releases by Government. In the case of steel, the Excise duty is on ingots but the distribution control is only on the production of rolled sections made out of duty paid ingots. As for cement, distribution control is exercised at a stage subsequent to the payment of excise duty.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri B. C. Kamble: May I know the manner and method by which the Budget proposals are guarded by Government usually, and whether there are any additional steps taken to guard the Budget proposals since the leakage last year?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this?

Shri B. C. Kamble: There is a possibility of leakage of Budget proposals.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. There are many things in the world which can be asked. But how does that arise out of this question?

Shri Nath Pal: Is the Finance Minister aware that because of these sugar

releases, for which he has given reasons—which on the face of them look satisfactory, all the same—the Treasury has been robbed of as much as Rs 14 crores?

Shri C. D. Pande: We have met this gap.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether the effect of the last release is a shortfall of Rs 14 crores.

Shri Nath Pal: And mine is a conservative estimate.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have given the figures. I have also given the figures for a number of months, which show that the average quantum of release under the Sugar Control Order by the Ministry over which my colleague Shri A. P. Jam presides, is of the order of about 1,60,000 tons.

The previous release was on the 28th March, and therefore, the stocks were running low, the free stocks available with several mills in this period was about 60,000 tons. The excise officials did not come into the picture. The Food and Agriculture Ministry was not aware of the fact that there was going to be any increase in the excise duty. So, the release made on 6th May was a normal release.

I have also demonstrated that on the day on which the excise duty was raised, there were 1,27,000 tons with the sugar mills, which would bear the increased excise duty. So, the release to the public from the sugar mills between the 6th May and the 15th May was more or less of a normal character. Therefore, there is no question of anybody trying to save any excise duty by inhibiting release.

In fact, what would have happened, if we had given the slightest inclination to any section, whether of Government officials or of other people, is that we might probably have had sufficient cornering.