

LOK SABHA

Thursday, 12th September, 1957.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up questions Shri Ramaswami.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: No, Sir. There is a question, No. 1722-A but it does not appear in the list I do not know why it is so It should come first.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: We have not got that question.

Mr Speaker: Has not a slip been attached to the list?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Today, this list has been placed on the Table Our list does not contain that question

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member may read that question

Creation of a Post of an Additional Secretary

- \*1722-A. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:  
Shri P. L. Barupal:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article under the caption "The Political Scene" in Delhi edition of the Statesman of the 1st June, 1957 wherein it

has been mentioned that the post of an Additional Secretary was created and approved in the record time of 36 hours; and

(b) what are the facts about the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah): (a) Yes.

(b) The post of the Additional Secretary was created and an officer appointed to the post in accordance with the normal procedure in regard to such appointments.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether consultation was had with the Home Ministry and whether it is a fact that the very same officer was twice rejected for promotion as Joint Secretary?

Shri Raghuramalah: I may mention that this appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee which consists of the Home Minister also. Whether this officer has been rejected before, I have no information but I may say that he is a senior officer belonging to Audit and Accounts Service

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As the Deputy Minister mentioned that this officer belongs to the Audit Department, is it a fact that the very same officer was deputed to enquire into the jeep scandal in 1953-54 and whether he had given a clean bill that those jeeps were purchased in the proper way?

Shri Raghuramalah: The information that I have on this matter is that after there was some sort of a condemnation in certain quarters about these jeeps, the officer happened to inspect those very jeeps and he found those which he inspected to be in good order and he wrote about it.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** How many officers were superceded by this appointment?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** May I answer that question? The officer who was appointed as Additional Secretary is a very senior officer and he belongs to the Audit and Accounts Service occupying a high position in Defence Audit. There is no question of supercession because by comparable seniority there are a number of people who are junior to him occupying positions of Additional Secretaries or even Secretaries. So, the question of supercession does not come in because a number of persons who are acting as Secretaries and who are comparable to him are juniors. The Finance Ministry had agreed to the appointment and it went up to the Appointment Committee which is composed of the concerned Minister, the Home Minister and the Prime Minister and it was approved there. So, the procedure is perfectly regular and there is nothing irregular about it.

**Shri Narayanankutty Memon:** What is the difference between the grade of this particular officer in the original post and the present post and what is the present salary drawn after promotion?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** So far as his salary is concerned, while he is categorised as Additional Secretary he draws Rs. 3,000 which is the salary paid to a Joint Secretary. I believe what he was getting in his own grade was the maximum and the maximum that he can go up to before becoming an Accountant-General, Class I, would be Rs. 2,750.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether the question of the appointment of that particular officer as Joint Secretary of the Finance Ministry had once arisen and the Finance Ministry itself had rejected that claim?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** That would not be correct because I do

remember myself having asked for this officer as the financial adviser for steel plants and the officer was not willing to undertake the job merely because of health considerations.

#### Foreign Exchange

\*1723. **Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of irrevocable foreign exchange commitment for the months from September to November, 1957; and

(b) on what account, import of capital goods or otherwise, does this commitment arise?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). I believe what the Hon'ble Member wants to know is the extent of foreign exchange payments falling due during September—November, 1957 against past commitments. Since the volume of payments depends on the actual utilisation of licences, which in turn depends on a number of unpredictable factors, it is not possible to say in advance what the payment and its composition will be during a particular period.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Is there no machinery of the Government either in the Finance Ministry or in the Reserve Bank or in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to make an intelligent anticipation of the probable demands in advance?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** We make anticipations of our tied commitments. I can tell my hon. friend that the tied commitments that we have between now and 1960 will be of the order of about Rs. 990 crores. But the exact payments as and when they will arise,—that is not something which is possible to predict with any precision. Normally, we can say that it would be of this order but it is of no use because it could not be quoted against me or against any particular department.