

Block 'G'
Acc. No. 25079
Dated 19.11.2014

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 20th November, 1952.

*The House met at a Quarter to Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REGULAR RESERVE OF OFFICERS

*500. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India decided to constitute a regular reserve of officers; and

(b) if so, whether the detailed terms and conditions of service applicable to members of the reserve have been finalised?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) These are being formulated.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the specific purpose of this reserve?

Sardar Majithia: It is quite obvious, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: It is not quite so obvious to me. That is why I wanted to know.

Mr. Speaker: He has paraphrased in this way the usual answer that he cannot disclose it in the public interest.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If he had said so, it would perhaps have satisfied me.

Now, may I know what would be the strength of this reserve?

Sardar Majithia: It is not in the public interest to disclose it.
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Sardar Hukam Singh: Would the case of officers demobilised as a result of the integration of the States be taken into consideration when this reserve is constituted?

Sardar Majithia: They will be considered, provided they are suitable.

Shri B. S. Murthy: When do Government expect to finalise this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

TINNED FOODSTUFFS FOR DEFENCE SERVICES

*501. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any tinned foodstuffs for the requirements of the Defence Services had to be imported during the year 1951-52?

(b) If so, what were the items imported and the amount of foreign currency spent thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Milk-tinned, skimmed milk powder and hops, valued at £5,87,658, were imported during this year.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the total number of items imported during the year?

Sardar Majithia: I have already mentioned it and for the information of the hon. Member, I shall repeat it. The items are: milk-tinned, skimmed milk powder, and hops.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Were any items imported during 1950-51 and as far as 1951-52 is concerned is it a fact that there is no need to import these items?

Sardar Majithia: No, Sir. Only items necessary were imported.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are Government making any attempts to see that all our requirements are met from indigenous sources?

Sardar Majithia: That is the policy of the Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know what are the attempts being made in this direction?

Sardar Majithia: In the first instance, we procure things which are available here, provided they come up to the standard.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the quantity that is purchased is purchased directly by the Ministry concerned, or through some private agency?

Sardar Majithia: I require notice for that.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether Government have received any complaint from the Canteen Stores Department that Indian manufactured tinned-fruits and jams are inferior in quality to imported ones and that most of the stocks have been spoiled due to long storage?

Sardar Majithia: Not to my knowledge.

EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

*502. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the examination of the report of the officer on special duty deputed to survey the existing educational facilities in the Islands of Andamans and Nicobar has been completed; and

(b) if so, whether, any definite schemes for educational development in these areas have been prepared?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). Yes. The details of the schemes are being worked out by the Chief Commissioner.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Who was the officer and what were his chief recommendations?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: In 1951 Mr. Bhagwad Prasad, Assistant Director of Education, Bihar State, was deputed by us to visit the Andamans and make recommendations. As a result, he has put forward certain recommendations, and a part of them has been accepted by the Chief Commissioner of the Andamans.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is his report only planned to cover a year or two, or does it cover the period of the Five Year Plan?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The recommendations as such do not have much bearing on the Five Year Plan, but they have been put forward for a period of four years.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the sum to be spent in 1952-53?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Rs. 35,000 has been provided in the budget for the current financial year.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Does this plan include compulsory primary education?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No. Sir.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the percentage of literacy in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of it just now.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know the ratio between the percentage of school-going children and children of school-going age?

Mr. Speaker: How can he say that, when he has said that he does not know the percentage of literacy there?

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the system of education that would be introduced there would be basic or ordinary primary type?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Basic education.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

SEIZURE OF GOLD

*503. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the quantity of gold seized by the customs authorities in India during the first half of the financial year 1952-53?

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): A quantity of 6,574 (Six thousand, five hundred and seventy four) tolas of gold was seized by the Customs authorities during the first half of the financial year 1952-53.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Have any new measures been taken by the Government to prevent the smuggling of gold?

Shri Tyagi: The import or export of gold is an offence. The gold is being imported mostly from French and Portuguese possessions. Arrangements have been made for stopping the smuggling. Surveillance at the ports is avoided by the gold being