

(b) There is no oil tanker on the Indian Registry at present.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : कितने दिन के अन्दर हमारे पास ये सब टैंकर हो जावेंगे ? पच्चीस टैंकर की हम को जरूरत है, तो कितने दिनों में ये सब हमारे पास हो जावेंगे ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : अभी तक तो हमारे पास कोई भी नहीं है और यह मसला मिनिस्ट्री के जेरे गौर है।

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we know if any negotiations are being carried on in order to obtain tankers at the moment?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, the steering and management of tankers is a very technical job because they have to be carried in ballast and therefore, we have not thought of having our own tankers. But very recently the Cabinet has taken up this question and I hope something will be done about it soon.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the oil companies that are putting up refineries in Bombay and elsewhere will have their own tankers or the Government will supply the tankers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, as it is, they have their own tankers or they hire tankers. That, I presume, will continue to be the arrangement.

मद्रास तथा मलाया के बीच चलने वाले यात्री जहाज

*१०८९. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या यातायात मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) मद्रास तथा मलाया के बीच चलने वाले यात्री जहाजों की संख्या कितनी है ;

(ख) जहाजों की कमी के कारण क्या यात्रियों को तीन तीन माम तक रुकना पड़ता है ; तथा

(ग) यात्रियों को सुविधा पहुंचाने तथा अत्याधिक भीड़ कम करने के लिए क्या सरकार इस समुद्री मार्ग पर यात्री-पोतों की संस्था बढ़ाने का प्रयत्न कर रही है ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The number of passenger ships regularly plying now between Madras and Malaya is two.

(b) Yes, it is reported that passengers at present have to wait for appreciable periods at Madras and Nagapattinam before they can sail for Malaya.

(c) Yes. The question of provision of more ships on this route has been taken up with the shipping companies concerned.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : यह जो दो जहाज चलते हैं क्या ये हिन्दुस्तानी जहाज हैं ? ये जहाज किस कम्पनी के जहाज हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : ये दोनों हिन्दुस्तानी जहाज हैं।

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether the passengers who want to go to Malaya from Madras and Nagapattinam are given conveniences or accommodation by the Government at these ports?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Of course, they are given.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have got complaints against the want of accommodation in these two places in view of the fact that there is inordinate delay in the ships coming?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, Government are aware of the fact that lots of passengers who want to go to Malaya have not been able to go due to shortage of accommodation in the ships and the Government have called upon these companies to make arrangements to clear up the rush.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware that very large numbers of people from Travancore-Cochin State go to Madras for going to Malaya? May I know whether Government are also aware that they are detained there because of lack of facilities?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what was said. There are not sufficient ships for the passengers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is not the point. There are difficulties in booking tickets also at Madras.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): We will look into that matter. We are not aware of it.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, whether Government have received any representations to open ticket booking stations in Travancore-Cochin State to suit the convenience of thousands of people who want to go from that State to Malaya and Singapore?

Shri B. Shastri: I have no information. I have not received any such representation. If any representation has come or if the Member will send it, I shall certainly look into it.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, what stands in the way of fixing up regular schedules and giving notice to passengers as to the dates they have to go so that they may not come to Madras and stay there for several days?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We can advise the shipping companies. It is not Government's concern, but if the Members wish we shall certainly advise the shipping companies.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know for how many days actually the passengers are detained on account of shortage of the ships?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We do not have statistics about every single individual passenger. But as I said before, the passengers have to wait quite a considerable time.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Government try to get this information and lay it on the Table—as regards actually how many days the passengers are detained there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Another question may be put.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether there are cases of corruption reported in these clearance offices at Madras from passengers?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We have no information, but if the hon. Member can bring any specific cases to notice, we will look into them.

Shri V. P. Nayar rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question hour is over.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is not yet over.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not able to see. Anyhow there is no possible time for putting the question and giving the answer.

25 PSD.

Short Notice Question and Answer

PRICE OF RAW JUTE

Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the price of raw jute in India has fallen to Rs. 15 per maund at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recent joint agreed Communique issued by India and Pakistan about jute import from Pakistan has agitated the minds of jute growers in India and they may be forced to leave jute cultivation and take to cereal and other food-stuffs production;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of trade agreements, import of raw jute from Pakistan was neither regular nor continuous;

(d) whether Government have calculated the minimum cost of jute cultivation;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to fix minimum and maximum prices of jute in the near future;

(f) what steps Government propose to take to fill up the deficiency of jute target of seven lacs bales and to avert the decrease of jute production as apprehended; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to see that the jute growers get reasonable and fair price for their jute that will be grown in future?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, in some and mofussil centres.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Yes, but in certain periods only.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Distribution of seeds at subsidised rates, grant of loans for purchase of seed, distribution of fertilisers, construction of retting tanks, setting up of seed multiplication farms, conducting sub-vention trials to impress upon the farmer the desirability of sowing seeds of improved strain, demonstrating the method of line-sowing to the cultivator, growing of an earlier crop of jute in addition to rice on winter paddy lands, adopting approved cultural and manurial practices which have been found to increase the yield considerably. Besides, an expert committee has been set up to suggest necessary measures for improving the quality of the jute