

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

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 1st September, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BALANCE OF TRADE

*910. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of trade position of the Government of India with the Governments of the foreign possessions in India;

(b) whether our trade with these foreign possessions in India is regulated by the usual laws of import and export of the Indian Government or by some special agreements entered into with the Governments of these foreign possessions;

(c) the commodities, if any, in which free trade is allowed with these foreign possessions; and

(d) the annual expenditures for maintaining customs regulations along the borders of these foreign possessions?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) A statement showing India's balance of trade position with the foreign possessions in India during the last three financial years is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 47.]

(b) There are no special agreements governing trade with these territories and our normal import and export control regulations apply.

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(c) As regards imports, all goods originating in the Portuguese possessions, with certain exceptions, are allowed to be imported under Open General Licence. The imports from the French possessions are regulated on the same basis as imports from other soft currency countries. In the case of exports, our normal regulations applicable to other soft currency countries apply equally to both the foreign possessions in India.

(d) The annual expenditure on the maintenance of customs cordons around the foreign possessions is between Rs. 25 and Rs. 30 lakhs.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, in view of our existing political relations with the Government of the Portuguese possessions in India, any revision of the Open General Licence regarding imports is under consideration by Government?

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, the present arrangement with the Portuguese Government is that this arrangement will continue up to 30th September 1953. After that the position will be reviewed and a decision will be arrived at.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, which are the commodities on account of the smuggling of which from these possessions, it has become necessary for our Government to impose a stricter customs control upon the borders?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think I have several times stated in this House that we have got sufficient customs control, but even in spite of that there must have been some smuggling. Wherever there is any land frontier, it is not absolutely possible to stop that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Could I know, Sir, why this information relating to the balance of trade with these places is not given in the Journal of Industry and Trade?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think that question does not concern this Ministry. It may be directed to the proper Ministry.

Kumari Annie Mascarane: May I know, Sir, in how many of these countries the balance of trade is regulated by the barter system?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think there is any barter system; at least I would like to have notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know what was the actual amount, out of specified quotas, released for Portuguese possessions during the last twelve months?

Shri A. C. Guha: As far as my knowledge goes, there is no regular quota. The import is regulated with the Portuguese territories on Open General Licence. There cannot be any question of regular quota.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether in maintaining this customs control upon the border the expected co-operation on the part of the Government of these foreign possessions, was forthcoming and available to our Government?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think, Sir, I can say positively that the expected co-operation is available. But anyhow that is a question affecting another Government. I am not in a position to reply to that.

Shri V. B. Gandhi: Could Government give us the figures of revenue collected at these customs so that we may know how it compares with the expenditure of Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs that we are incurring in maintaining these customs?

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, I have not got that figure with me, I would like to have notice.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, the currencies that are prevailing in these foreign possessions in India—

whether they are Indian currency or the currency of the respective foreign States? If they are the foreign currencies, then what is the exchange rate, official and un-official?

Shri A. C. Guha: They have got their own currencies. As for the exchange rate. I would like to have notice.

DEFENCE SCIENCE ORGANISATION

*911. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what are the sums of money, both recurring and non-recurring, set apart for the working of the Defence Science Organisation;

(b) whether the Organisation will have its own Laboratory and Library;

(c) whether any number of Indian Scientists interested in the Defence Science have been sent abroad or are likely to go in future to study the working of such organisation in other countries;

(d) the methods and facilities devised to give training to scientists with a view to equip them with the preliminary knowledge and skill necessary for tackling problems which the Organisation is to face;

(e) whether any foreign scientists expert in Defence Science have visited this country, and if so, whether any guidance has been sought from them; and

(f) whether the Head of the Organisation will be in permanent employ of the Government?

The Minister of Defence Organization (Shri Tyagi): (a) The following provision has been included in the budget for 1953-54:

Non-recurring expenditure—

Rs. 3,00,000.

Recurring expenditure—

Rs. 12,21,000.

(b) The Organisation has already a separate Laboratory and Library.

(c) The Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence, visited the U. K. in 1949 for this purpose. He went again in 1950 in connection with a conference. Two senior Scientists of the Defence Science