

Shri Joachim Alva: Nearly two years ago I tabled a short notice question....

Mr. Speaker: He may put his question.

Shri Joachim Alva: ...enquiring whether half a crore worth of equipment was lying idle in the Bombay docks, for which the Government of India had paid. I want to know whether this equipment has been utilised for this purpose.

Dr. Keskar: I hope my hon. friend is not inspired by what he has read today or yesterday in some papers. No equipment is lying in any dock whatsoever.

KHADI

***529. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a U.P.I. message published in the Press regarding the statement issued by the Chairman of the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board, to the effect that with the introduction of the new and improved type of charka, the production cost of Khadi would be reduced?

(b) What is its cost?

(c) What is the average income of a spinner working on that charka for 8 hours daily?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN D.V.C. AND CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION

***531. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provisional agreement has been made between the D.V.C. and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, for supplying electric current from Bokaro to Calcutta, from the year 1956;

(b) whether such an agreement requires the approval and sanction of the Central Government;

(c) if so, whether such sanction has been asked for by the D.V.C. and given by the Central Government; and

(d) the main terms and conditions of the agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A draft agreement has been drawn up and is under scrutiny by the D.V.C. and the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As the draft agreement has not been finalised it is not possible to supply the required information at this stage.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether such contracts for bulk supply of electricity are being negotiated with any other body; if so, what are they?

Shri Hathi: I think some negotiations are being made with some other firms, but I have not got the list with me.

Dr. M. M. Das: What is the tentative rate per unit that will be charged from the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation and the annual amount that will be realised?

Shri Hathi: The matter is still under consideration. The negotiations have not been completed.

Shri K. K. Basu: Will Government state that the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation charge a nominal profit on the current that they will get from the D.V.C.?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it is a suggestion for action.

BRITISH GUIANA

***533. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large proportion of the population of British

Guiana is of Indian origin and if so, their number;

(b) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the recent events in British Guiana; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) According to estimate of 1951, 197,696 persons out of a total population of 437,000 were of Indian origin. They form the largest racial grouping in British Guiana, the next largest group being of persons of African descent.

(b) and (c). Government are aware of the course of recent events in British Guiana and are deeply interested in them. Any steps that they might take will depend on circumstances and on the fact that the people of the country are not nationals of India.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it is in the contemplation of Government to see to it that as a member of the U.N. Trusteeship Council for non-self-governing territories we raise this matter, just as we did lately in regard to the question of the Central African Federation and the question of South West Africa, in the Council?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): These matters are under consideration.

May I say, Sir, that I am always pleased that the House should be amused. But it is not a matter for amusement. It is a very serious matter, how this can be brought about. There is no good the Government of India just saying something irresponsibly without producing any results.

Shri H. N. Mookerjee: May I know why on the 14th and 15th of October when this matter regarding British Guiana was raised in the U.N. Trusteeship Council by Guatemala and Poland we kept completely quiet?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I cannot say; I have no information on what happened then.

Mr. Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

JAMMU-PATHANKOT ROAD

***526. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wide powers to award contracts to Central Public Works Department contractors for constructing the Jammu-Pathankot road and bridges etc., were given to the then Chief Engineer of Central Public Works Department; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer was empowered to award contracts and allow rates on negotiation?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The project of construction of the Jammu-Pathankot Road and Bridges was started as one of extreme necessity immediately after the Partition. On account of the urgency of the work and the peculiar conditions prevailing in that part of the country, the Chief Engineer was given full powers to sanction agreements without call for tenders.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE

***530. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research Programmes Committee appointed by the Planning Commission to investigate into the economic, social and administrative problems relating to national developments has started functioning;

(b) if so, how many centres have been selected by this Committee for carrying on this investigation; and