

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is any effort made to ascertain the food requirements of these areas beyond what they can produce themselves and equitable quantities arranged to be sent from time to time?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. When the hon. Member talks about the area, the area is a large area with various degrees of administration there. An effort is made. Where there is no aircraft available, the effort is obviously difficult.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The question was asked whether the foodgrains supplied were only for government officers or also for the local population. I want to find out if the needs of the population, apart from the government officers, are also considered when the despatch of foodgrains is decided upon by air.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course, Sir. The needs of the area are also considered and food is sent for that area. But so far as the droppings are concerned they are necessary limited, because the aircraft are limited.

Mr. Speaker: I am calling Shri S. N. Das's question No. 350.

CENTRAL WATER AND POWER COMMISSION

*350. **Shri Radha Raman** (on behalf of **Shri S. N. Das**): Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any changes are contemplated the constitution, set up, functions, powers and responsibilities of the Central Water and Power Commission as a result of the recommendations of Kasturbhai Lalbhai Committee and Public Accounts Committee;

(b) if so, what; and

(c) whether any rules and regulations have been framed for the proper functioning of this organisation?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (**Shri Nanda**): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 47.]

(c) Rules of procedure for the conduct of business at the meetings of the Central Water and Power Commission have been framed. A manual containing the rules and regulations for the proper functioning of the Organisation has been prepared and is at present under scrutiny by the Commission.

Shri Radha Raman: How much time will be taken before this is completed?

Shri Nanda: What is completed?

Shri Radha Raman: The scrutiny which he mentioned.

Shri Nanda: That is going ahead very briskly.

Shri Mooniswamy: I want to put Question No. 366.

Mr. Speaker: I am calling the earlier question No. 353.

JAPANESE CLOTH DEAL

*353. **Shri Radha Raman** (on behalf of **Shri S. N. Das**): Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the statement laid on the Table of the House on the 11th August, 1953, in connection with the Fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the imports and sale of Japanese cloth and state:

(a) whether the arbitration proceedings referred to therein with regard to settlement of outstanding recovery of Rs. 15 lakhs due to Government from the firm Messrs Banwarilal and Company relating to the transaction pertaining to the import and sale of Japanese cloth in 1946-47, have been finalised; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the arbitration?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**): (a) and (b). Arbitration proceedings

have not yet commenced. The selection of the sole arbitrator is under discussion with the firm.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether this particular firm M/s. Banwari Lal and Company has been black-listed by the Government on account of their failure to pay Rs. 15 lakhs due to the Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know to which type of black-listing the hon. Member refers. There has been no black-listing so far as the Commerce and Industry Ministry is concerned; not to my knowledge. I would not hazard an opinion and; I would like to have notice.

Shri Pataskar: Is this Banwari Lal & Co., a limited company?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know; I must have notice.

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know whether this company has had any transactions with the Government recently?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Not so far as the Commerce and Industry Ministry is concerned.

Shri K. K. Bhan: May I know whether this particular company of firm, whatever it is, is still functioning?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Apparently, there are some legal representatives of this firm with whom some negotiations are being carried on in regard to the appointment of an arbitrator.

Shri Sarvagadhar Das: May I know if this is the firm that bought some Curtis Commandot planes from the Government lately?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not deal with the sale of planes. I have no knowledge.

Shri Sarvagadhar Das: If there is a case for black-listing a firm or if a firm is black-listed, is it circulated to

all the Ministries from the Commerce Ministry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Naturally, if there is any grave provocation and if we want to black-list firms from having any transaction with the Government, the information is circulated. But, the Commerce Ministry generally black-lists firms who misbehave in regard to import and export transactions.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that the Public Accounts Committee, in their report to this House, have made very unpleasant remarks about this particular firm.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Precisely the reason for that was mentioned in my statement before the House. We would like to clear of the whole thing and that is why we want to have arbitration proceedings started as quickly as possible. As I said in my reply, the question of the personnel of the arbitration is under discussion.

Shri Pataskar: Is it the information of the Government that this firm has assets out of which 15 lakhs of rupees could be recovered?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): The question may prejudice our chances.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to hold it up to a time when the arbitration proceedings are complete, and then answer the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question No. 366.

CEYLON CENTRAL OFFICE FOR
VISAS

*366. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ceylon Government have proposed to open a Central Office at Madras for issuing visas;

(b) if so, whether such office has been opened;