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

1705

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 5th April, 1954

1706

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

J. J. COMMITTEE

*1549. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) what recommendations were made by the J. J. Committee for evolving a scientific method of calculating the annual contribution to the **Renewal Reserve Fund**; and

(b) whether the Committee's recommendations are being implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Committee has recommended that the present 'Renewals Reserve Fund' should be designated as 'Depreciation Reserve Fund' and that annual contributions to this fund should be calculated on 'Straight Line' method based on the lives of various classes of assets as recommended by the Committee.

(b) The Committee's recommendations are under the consideration of Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any special reasons why it has taken so long for Government to consider

these recommendations, because in the previous year's report too it was stated that they were under consideration?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As the hon. Member might be aware, the Committee has made recommendations in regard to the average life of the assets and their residual value, as also the basis for determining the contribution to the Fund. There is a large number of assets—quite multitudinous—and therefore, we have to go into each one of them. Then, we have to invite the attention of the Auditor-General also. All this takes time.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the annual contribution that has been made to this Fund recently, and have the recommendations made any change in the quantum?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The actual net contribution for the year 1953 was Rs. 75 lakhs, but as a result of the recommendations and on the basis of the new formula that they have given us, we increased the contribution to Rs. 100 lakhs for the year 1953-54, and we have made a provision of Rs. 125 lakhs for the year 1954-55.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the value of the assets that we have got from erstwhile princely States, as assessed by this Committee by means of test-checks?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I will not be able to give the value separately for the assets that we have taken over

from the princely States, but the total fixed assets at the end of the year 1953-54 have been estimated to be Rs. 66,19,41,000.

CHILD WELFARE AND MATERNITY PROGRAMME

*1550. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any Central or United Nations assistance has been given to the State of Bihar in respect of development in child welfare and maternity programmes there, during the years 1952-53 or 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): UNICEF has allocated \$ 215,000 for the provision of supplies and equipment for 'a maternal and child health and nursing education project' in Bihar State. The project will come into operation as soon as the plan of operations, which is under consideration, is finalised. No Central or other United Nations assistance for specific child welfare and maternity programme has been given to the Bihar State during this period.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: In view of the large requirements of the rural areas for this sort of aid, has Government ever submitted any scheme for more aid from the UNICEF? Also, has the Bihar Government submitted any scheme for more aid from the Centre?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The States are requested to submit projects that may be undertaken by the W.H.O. or the UNICEF. This was the scheme that the Bihar Government put forward, and this is the amount that has been allotted for this scheme.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any training centre has been opened in Bihar for child welfare and maternity programmes?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Under this scheme, the improvement and expansion of the training of certain categories of public health personnel, e.g. medical students, doctors, nurses, midwives and *dhais*, will be taken up.

TANKER FLEET

*1551. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to build a nucleus tanker fleet for India is being considered or has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the nature of the scheme that has been drawn up?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Technical details relating to the size and specifications of the tankers to be acquired and the economics of operating them are under discussion with the Oil Companies.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, if any assessment has been made of the amount required if the scheme is brought into operation?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: At present, the idea is to have only two tankers. Estimates and other details are being worked out.

Shri Kasliwal: What is the capacity of these tankers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They will be medium-size tankers.

WHEAT IMPORT

*1552. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported from Canada and Australia during the year 1951;

(b) whether it is a fact that, out of the total quantity of wheat imported from Canada and Australia during the year 1951, 68,311 tons of damaged wheat were received in the Bombay godowns and that out of this quantity 1,141 tons were condemned as unfit for human consumption; and

(c) if so, what were the reasons therefor?