

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, in how many cases the criterion of seniority has been overlooked and for what reasons?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Obviously, it is a very lengthy question to be attempted when thousands of employees are involved.

Mr. Speaker: Apart from that it is going into administrative details also.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN SIMLA

*1052. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state the total rental value of Central Government buildings now lying vacant at Simla?

(b) Are Government taking any steps to utilise these buildings and if so, what?

(c) What is the annual expenditure on the maintenance of these buildings?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) The total rental value of Central Government residential buildings, other than those belonging to the Ministry of Defence, lying vacant at Simla as on the 28th February 1954, works out to Rs. 29,000/- p.m. approximately. The rental value of vacant office accommodation is not readily available.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government propose to shift some of their offices and organisations to Simla to utilise the vacant accommodation there.

(c) The annual expenditure incurred by Government on the maintenance of the vacant buildings (both residential and office) is Rs. 1,52,000/- approximately.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Were any of these buildings under the occupation of the Punjab Government till recently?

Sardar Swarn Singh: Yes, Sir. Some of the Government of India buildings are in the occupation of the Punjab Government.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the floor space of the buildings lying vacant?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got that information.

Shri Gidwani: Is Rashtrapati Bhavan also being put to some use?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is kept in readiness for occupation by the Rashtrapati.

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि इस पांच वर्ष के दौरान में कितने दफ्तर शिमला से यहाँ लाये गये जो कि उन बिल्डिंगों में पहले मौजूद थे ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would require notice, Sir.

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि जो दफ्तर शिमला में ले जाये जायेंगे तो वहाँ आफिसर्स को शिमला अलाउंस देना पड़ेगा और उसकी वजह से खर्चा बढ़ जायेगा ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not think so, Sir.

SINDRI FERTILISERS

*1053. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether any quantity of Sindri fertilizer has been exported to any country outside India; and

(b) if so, what quantity and to which countries?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri B. G. Dubey): (a) Yes.

(b) 15,100 tons comprising 15,000 to Pakistan and 100 tons sent as a gift to Ceylon under the Colombo Plan.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether the price of export was less than the price at which it is made available here in India?

Shri B. G. Dubey: Now, or at that time?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: At the time of export.

Shri R. G. Dubey: The price of export was Rs. 335. In the case of Pakistan after some negotiations it was reduced to Rs. 325.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know the amount realised by this export?

Shri R. G. Dubey: The quantity exported was 15,100 tons. The price was Rs. 325 per ton. So it is simple arithmetic.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether the entire production of 1953 has been exhausted?

Shri R. G. Dubey: No, Sir, stocks are there.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know whether any quantity of fertilizers has been distributed among the agriculturists on the basis of loan?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Not to our knowledge. The difficulty is that the actual distribution rests with the States. How they do it we are not aware of.

BORDER INCIDENT

*1054. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 heads of cattle were lifted by Pakistani military border force from Garo Hills, on or about the 20th January, 1954; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to avoid such occurrences in the future and to recover the cattle or to compensate the owners?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) Under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of December, 1948, such incidents on the Assam-East Bengal border are referred to the Indian and Pakistani District Magistrates of the districts concerned for settlement and for taking suitable steps for the prevention of their recurrence.

In this case, the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills (Assam) and the District Magistrate, Mymensingh (East Bengal) met soon after the incident, which had also led to an exchange of fire between the police of the two sides. In accordance with the recommendation made by the District Magistrates, the Governments of Assam and East Bengal have agreed to hold a joint enquiry in the matter.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Were there any casualties in this incident?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There was no casualty on our side.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it a fact that there are only two border check posts in the whole border of 100 miles?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am surprised to hear that, Sir, from my hon. friend. I do not think we have got only two check posts along this border.

HARD BOARDS

*1055. **Shri Damodara Menon:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of hard boards imported into India every year from Sweden and Norway under the G.A.T.T.?

(b) Is it a fact that plywood manufacturers of India have made a representation to Government that import of hard boards has adversely affected the plywood industry?

(c) What action have Government taken regarding this representation?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Statistics regarding the import of hard boards are not recorded separately in the Accounts relating to the Foreign Trade and Navigation of India. There is, however, no commitment under the G.A.T.T. for importing hard boards from any country.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir, representations to this effect were received from some of the Plywood Manufacturers' Associations early last year. But it is understood that plywood