

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

18.11.52

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 8th July, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MEMORANDUM FROM KACHIN TRADERS

*1519. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kachin traders from North Burma have submitted a memorandum to the Government of Assam for grant of better facilities for trade with India through Stillwell Road; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in that regard?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are considering the Memorandum, but have not yet taken a decision on any of the points raised therein.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir whether these traders are allowed to do any trade with India at present?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I believe so, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What kind of trade?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Excepting rice which is prohibited by the Burma Government, I think every 142 P.S.D.

other commodity that is normally concerned in trade.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister just said 'excepting rice which has been prohibited by the Government of Burma'. May I know whether these traders have requested the Government of India to enter into negotiations with the Government of Burma to import rice through the Stillwell Road?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: They have made a number of representations and that is but natural. But I do not think it will be possible to import rice from Burma.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Upto what amount of money each trader is allowed to do trading?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I want notice.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether the Stillwell Road is open for traffic or closed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is open for traffic.

SURPLUS STORES

*1520. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any surplus defence stores were disposed of by private negotiations during the year 1951-52;

(b) if so, of what amount and by whom; and

(c) what was the total value of surplus Defence Stores disposed of during the year?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 92 lakhs approximately.—

(i) Rs. 79 lakhs by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals;

(ii) Rs. 12 lakhs by Textile Commissioner; and

(iii) Rs. 1 lakh by Defence Services.

(c) Surplus Defence stores disposed of during 1951-52 amounted to Rs. 17.35 crores.

Sardar Hukam Singh: In view of the fact that it has been laid down by the Disposals Enquiry Committee that in future no sales be made by negotiations, may I know whether there are any special reasons why these sales were made by negotiation?

Shri Buragohain: As my hon. friend no doubt knows, private negotiation is not the normal method of disposal. It is resorted to only when the principal methods of sale, namely by advertised tender and auction fail to secure any purchasers. And when it becomes necessary to dispose of isolated stock to completely clear storage premises or depots, this kind of sale is resorted to.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the value of the scientific stores—scientific apparatus, appliances etc.—sold to the educational and other charitable institutions?

Shri Buragohain: I have not got the figure with me.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it the Director General alone or is there any Committee that decides whether the store is to be sold by negotiation or public auction is to be held or tenders are to be invited?

Shri Buragohain: I have already said, Sir, that when the usual methods are exhausted, the Director General is authorised to negotiate sale of stores of the book value upto Rs. 50,000. If the amount exceeds that limit he has to make a reference to the Ministry and obtain orders.

Shri Bogawat: May I know, Sir, the names of the countries where the defence stores are distributed and the particular amounts to particular countries?

Shri Buragohain: I do not think we dispose of these goods to other countries.

Shri Kelappan: During the last year i.e., during the 1951-52, may I know whether motor vehicles and aeroplane parts were also sold?

Shri Buragohain: Yes, Sir.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have disposed of aeroplanes and whether tenders were invited for that purpose and is it only after the failure of that that negotiations were entered into?

Shri Buragohain: Sir, 70 Curtis Commando aircrafts and also spares were advertised last year and eventually it was sold to a party in November last year. But that party defaulted payment of the money and furnishing of the bank guarantee and eventually that had to be cancelled in April last and the security deposit of three lakhs has been forfeited and the aircraft and spares have been again readvertised on a global basis and that offer is open upto the middle of this month.

An Hon. Member: May I know whether one crore worth of automobile tyres were put up for sale?

Shri Buragohain: I want notice for that. I think there was a question on this subject, Sir, some time ago which my senior colleague answered. But I am not quite sure.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether these surplus stores include those stores which are not identified due to lack of knowledge of proper nomenclature?

Shri Buragohain: No, Sir.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, regarding the aeroplanes disposal, whether the second sale was given to the same party for whom the contract had been cancelled?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The offer is still open. The hon. Member did not follow the answer. It has been advertised and the offer is still open till the middle of this month. The hon. Member if he wishes, may also.....*(Interruption)*.

IRON, STEEL AND ALUMINIUM

*1521. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic raw materials of iron, steel and aluminium produced in our country fall short of our annual requirements and if so, by how much; and

(b) how Government propose to meet this shortage during the next year, what portion by increased production and what portion by imports?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) Yes, Sir. The present shortage is