

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I think, Sir, the function of the Publicity Officer is to study even technical literature and to transmute it, so to speak, for the use of the ordinary citizen.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is it the intention of Government to encourage the appointment of separate Information Officers for each of these river valley schemes?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That question does not arise, Sir, because, as was pointed out in the reply, the Corporation is competent to make an appointment or to decide whether to make an appointment or not under the section I have quoted.

Shri A. C. Guha: At present, is there any suggestion that such posts should come for the Government's approval?

Mr. Speaker: That is the same thing again.

Shri A. C. Guha: This was several times mentioned and the Minister in charge, gave an assurance that they would revise these rules.

Mr. Speaker: Then he may refer to the assurance. Was any assurance given?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Well, I do not know about an assurance. Reference might have been made to certain things under consideration. I do not know whether the hon. Member refers to the appointment of Publicity Officers or to appointments carrying a high rate of pay. At one time there was an idea that appointments carrying a pay above a certain limit might be referred for approval of Government. No decision has yet been taken.

D.V.C. (SELECTION COMMITTEE)

*1048. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Selection Committee of the D.V.C.; and

(b) if so—

(i) who are its members;

(ii) how often it has met during the last 3 years;

(iii) who has formed the committee; and

(iv) what is the minimum pay of the posts which are referred to the Selection Committee?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) For officers posts

Both the Members of the Corporation, the Director of Personnel and the Head of the Department concerned.

All appointments are approved by the Chairman also.

For Subordinate Technical posts

Dr. B. C. Guha, Member, D.V.C., the Director and Deputy Director of Personnel and the Head of the Department concerned.

For Subordinate Non-technical posts

Mr. P. P. Varma, Member, D.V.C., the Director and Deputy Director of Personnel and the Head of the Department concerned.

Outside experts such as the Head of the Power Wing of the Central Water and Power Commission, Coal Commissioner, Chief Mining Engineer and General Manager, Calcutta Electricity Corporation are also invited to help the Selection Committee when necessary.

(ii) 1949—102 times

1950—128 times.

1951—151 times.

(iii) The Committees have been formed by the Corporation.

(iv) Reference to the Selection Committee is not made on the basis of pay of posts.

All appointments except those corresponding to Class IV servants of the Government of India are referred to the Committee. In addition the following classes of personnel, who are appointed after a trial test are not required to appear before the Selection Committee:—

Typists, Steno-typists, Stenographers, Draftsmen, Tracers, Technicians, Transport Drivers, etc.

Director of Personnel has been authorised to select them after test.

Shri A. C. Guha: From the answer given it appears that the Selection Committee practically consists of the Members of the Corporation and the Director of Personnel. Have the Government any idea of referring such appointments to the Public Service Commission?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: No, Sir. The law invests the Corporation with the necessary powers.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that in certain recent legislations

setting up autonomous bodies, the Public Service Commission has been authorised to make appointments?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is trying to argue.

Shri A. C. Guha: That has been done in recent legislations.

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of argument.

Shri A. C. Guha: Some modification in the law.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He may proceed to the next question.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any proposal to change the law in view of the irregularities?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question No. 1049.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, I have four questions in my name. If I am allowed to put only three, I would like to forego this (No. 1049), and I would put only No. 1054.

Mr. Speaker: He may take his chance. If it is not reached, he would not be able to put it. So, the hon. Member is, not putting Question No. 1049?

Shri A. C. Guha: I am not putting it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: No. 1050.

TRADE BALANCE

*1050. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the main reasons for the contrast between favourable balance of Rs. 21.42 crores in 1950-51 and trade deficit of over Rs. 156 crores in 1951-52?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to improve the trade balance of our country?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The main reasons for heavier adverse balance of trade in 1951-52 were:—

(i) Large imports of foodgrains.

(ii) Large imports of cotton and certain other important raw materials.

(b) The special reasons referred to in (a) above are not likely to prevail, to the same extent in future. Besides, Government adjust from time to time, their export and import policies suitably.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is it a fact that accumulation of stocks of some non-essential goods has been made in this country because of the import policy,

and, if so, what are those goods?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: What is the total amount spent on the import of luxury goods?

Shri Karmarkar: We have banned the import of luxury goods. It depends upon what he considers to be luxury goods.

NON-ESSENTIAL CONSUMER GOODS (IMPORT)

*1051. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the import figures of non-essential consumer goods during the second half of the year 1951?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): I do not know what consumer goods the hon. Member regards as non-essential goods. If a list of such items is supplied, the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

For my own information we had a small list of what are considered as non-essential goods: Animals living, apparel, furniture, tobacco manufactures, wood and timber manufactures, postal articles, etc. The whole of it from July to December came to Rs. 5,80,00,000—if these are considered non-essential articles.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Will the hon. Minister repeat? We cannot hear.

Shri Karmarkar: I do not know what consumer goods the hon. Member regards as non-essential goods. If a list of such items is supplied, the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the Government imports face powders, cosmetics.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Karmarkar: They are non-essentials. We are discouraging the import of such articles.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether lipsticks are allowed to be imported?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

COAL IN ASSAM AND NORTH BENGAL

*1052. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a vast reserve of coal in Assam, Garo Hills and in Bagracota of North Bengal;