

THE

Dated 19/11/2014

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Saturday, 6th December, 1952

*The House met at a Quarter to
Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)
of the Clock

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES OF
DISPLACED PERSONS

*972. Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether displaced persons from East Pakistan having Postal Life Insurance policies issued by the undivided Government of India and who have come over to India since February 1950, are receiving their payments from the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The reply is in the negative. In accordance with an Inter-Dominion Agreement reached in December 1950 the liability for the Postal Life Insurance policies of displaced persons who did not migrate to India on or before the 31st March 1948 devolves on the Government of Pakistan. To avoid hardship to insured persons whose policies have become the liability of the Pakistan Government, it was proposed to the Pakistan Government that the Government of India would be willing to recover premia on those policies and settle claims on behalf of the Pakistan Government and that the Pakistan Government would likewise arrange to settle claims on behalf of the Government of India. The reply of the Pakistan Government is still awaited. In the meantime the Government of India have sanctioned some interim relief to such policy holders as have no other means of livelihood.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether these persons had re-
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ceived their payments regularly as long as they were in Pakistan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Of course, they should have received payments if their claims had matured when they were there.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is in a position to give the number of persons having Postal Life Insurance policies who have come over to India?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not possible for me to give the number of persons who have come to India and have got life insurance policies in Pakistan. I can give the number of persons who have applied in respect of such policies. That is 25.

Shri Gidwani: Is there any particular date after which Government is not prepared to take any responsibility about these policy holders?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That date has been notified. It is 31st March 1948.

Shri Gidwani: What is the sanctity of that particular date, because people stayed in Pakistan because of the leaders' advice and if they had to come now.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is arguing the matter. Instead of putting it that way, the Minister may be asked what is the reason for fixing that date and no other date. That is what evidently the hon. Member wants to know.

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is based on Inter-Dominion arrangements. They have accepted responsibility up to a particular date and not after that.

Shri Gidwani: Will Government consider the hard plight of those persons who have come after that date and also include them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have already considered it and are trying to evolve a formula for interim relief also.

Shri Saranadhar Das: May I know when that proposal was made to the Pakistan Government reply to which is being awaited?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That was about 25th August 1949.

Shri Gidwani: How long is it proposed to wait?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the meanwhile there have been counter-proposals which we have not accepted. Then there have been our old proposals on which we have not got replies, so far.

RADIO LICENCE SCREENING

*973. **Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state when was the radio-licence screening done last?

(b) How many persons have been found in the country using their radio sets without licences?

(c) Have Government taken any action against those who were not having radio licences?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Screening is done throughout the year by the special anti-piracy staff employed to check the unauthorised use of Broadcast Receivers.

(b) During the last ten months January to October, 1952, 1,87,106 persons were found using their sets without licences.

(c) Yes.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know Sir, whether a licence covers more than one receiving set of a person or family, if all those sets are located in a single premise?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In one building it generally covers, the same may be said of commercial broadcasting receivers or community receivers.

Shri Bogawat: How many persons have so far been prosecuted or penalised?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The number of prosecutions launched is 283.

Shri Raghavachari: May I know the number of licences issued as against the number of sets imported into the country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I learn on good authority that sets as such are not imported now.

RICE (LOANS)

*974. **Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice has been given as loans to some neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, to which country or countries such loans have been given;

(c) the total quantity of rice given as loans; and

(d) when these loans are likely to be returned?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) Yes.

(b) Ceylon.

(c) 15,000 tons.

(d) In March, 1953.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: When was the rice made available to Ceylon?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: 7,500 tons was given in the month of September and another 7,500 tons was given last month.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: Has any other Government approached the Government of India for rice?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: About three months back the Government of Nepal asked us for some rice. By the time we were able to give it to them their internal position improved.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether the Government knew at the time the loan was made to Ceylon that in some of the Southern States the ration per head was only about 5 ounces?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, Sir. Our food situation was far from satisfactory at that time. But in view of the consideration of good neighbourly relationship and the fact that Ceylon had loaned us about 10,000 tons of rice in 1950 when we were in dire need of rice in South India, we agreed to give them 15,000 tons. They had asked for 40,000 tons but we agreed to give them only 15,000 tons.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, whether any standard quality is fixed for the rice that is loaned and the rice that will be received back?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We insist on the return of the same quality and delivery at the port from which we supplied it.

Shrimati Tarakshwari Sinha: May I know whether the rice was Indian-grown rice or foreign imported rice that was sent to Ceylon?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The rice we loaned them was got by us from Burma.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Was the rice loaned because of the recommendation of any international organisation, or body or because of the friendly relations existing between India and Ceylon?