

had recommended the issue of Import Licences on f.o.b. basis;

(b) whether the Import Advisory Council at its last meeting had suggested any immediate action on the above recommendation; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action in this matter and if so, the nature thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Member of the Import Advisory Council mentioned this matter at the last meeting of the Council.

(c) The Government of India gave careful consideration to the suggestion made by the Import Control Enquiry Committee and felt that a change-over from c.i.f. to f.o.b. basis in the case of commercial imports would not be feasible.

Shri Tulsidas: May I know the reasons why it is not feasible?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, it is a long story. The hon. Member himself was a Member of that Committee. And, I am sure, the hon. Member with his unique experience of commercial practice knows that it is only in regard to certain commodities the normal practice is to quote f.o.b. or f.i.s. and in regard to bulk commodities the quotations are always c.i.f. because the manufacturer of the exporter cushions the freight, insurance and other charges. Since the present import control is mainly concerned with the total amount of exchange that we spend on imports, from that point of view the change-over is neither feasible nor desirable nor could it be worked because when we have to give a licence on the basis of f.o.b., f.i.s., etc., we have to decide the quantum to be allowed for the freight rates, insurance etc. unless it is done entirely by Indian shipping and Indian shipping is able to carry all the trade. Under the present state of our shipping—as the hon. Member who is a Director of a

premier Indian shipping company knows,—it is very unlikely that our shipping can take even a moiety of the trade that this country has with foreign countries.

MODEL HOUSES

***2266. Shri Siddananjappa:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of type designs of model houses for adoption in Village Centres so far drawn up by the Rural Cell; and

(b) whether any of these type designs have been adopted and houses built accordingly in any of the Village Centres?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The Rural Cell has evolved four basic designs of model houses for adoption in Village Centres. These basic designs are intended to be modified suitably, where necessary, to suit local conditions and actual requirements.

(b) The draft manual on Rural Housing which contains these designs, was published only three months ago. As such, it is too early to expect any appreciable progress in the adoption of these designs in rural areas.

Shri Siddananjappa: May I know the estimated cost of these designs?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The estimated cost of each design is contained in this manual, copies of which have already been placed in the Library of the House.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Do Government propose to give some financial encouragement to popularise such models in the villages?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That question would be more suitably addressed to the Community Projects Administration. The main function of the Rural Cell is to advise the Community Projects Administration on the technical side.