

(ख) क्या कोई जन-धन की हानि हुई है ;

(ग) यदि हां. तो उस का ब्यौरा क्या है; और उस का अनुमानित मूल्य क्या है और

(घ) क्या दुर्घटना की कोई जांच की जा रही है ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (d). A Departmental Committee constituted by the Development Commissioner, Kandla enquired into the accident but has not found it possible to establish the exact cause of the fire.

(b) and (c). There has been no loss of life. Port property estimated at Rupees one lakh is feared to have been lost. The loss sustained by the tanker is not known.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if the loss mentioned is the price of the oil only or it includes the price of any other property ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is other property also. Besides the oil, jetties and some other property might have been damaged.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether an inquiry will be made in this connection? It is not known what damage has been caused to the tanker. I want to know whether any inquiry would be conducted to ascertain the loss sustained by the tanker itself.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: One inquiry has already been made. But there was a suggestion from the Inspector of Explosives that another inquiry should be made by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply and the Ministry of Transport. This matter is under consideration.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Visits of Ministers to Dalmia Nagar

S.N.Q. No. 17. Shri G. P. Sinha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Commerce & Industry visited Dalmia Nagar on the eve of Shri Ramkrishna Dalmia's arrest;

(b) whether the Finance Minister is also visiting that place very soon; and

(c) if so, the purpose of their visits ?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru): (a) and (c). The Minister of Commerce & Industry visited Dehri-on-Sone (Dalmia Nagar) on the 23rd September, 1955. The visit

was part of a tour in Bihar arranged by the Bihar Government to enable him to acquaint himself with industrial enterprises in Bihar. There was no connection between his visit and the arrest of Shri Ramkrishna Dalmia. It is understood that Shri Ramkrishna Dalmia has no interest or connection now with the industrial units of Dalmia Nagar.

(b). The Finance Minister is not visiting this place.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that Shri Shanti Prasad Jain was able to make good the amount of Rs. 2 crores which Shri Ramkrishna Dalmia is alleged to have misappropriated, and is it a fact....

Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru: It does not arise out of this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. There is a case pending evidently and investigations are proceeding. How can details of all that be asked here? I do not know how this question was admitted. Even this matter need not have been brought here. That was what I originally thought so far as this question was concerned.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I rather doubt if the Minister of Commerce and Industry had any knowledge even of the arrest or the impending arrest. I do not know whether he knew anything about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Details of the case cannot be asked now.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that Government have appointed an Administrator to take control of the Bharat Insurance Company.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise out of this ?

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is it a fact that there are some definite instructions that the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the Minister of Commerce and Industry should not ordinarily visit or open any individual concern in the private sector? May I know whether any such instructions have been issued? If so, what is the reason for the Minister visiting Dalmia Nagar ?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not aware of any such instruction. In fact, I have myself visited such institutions.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Members of Parliament belonging to that constituency were informed of this visit or not ?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know any reason for their being informed.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the fact that some three years ago, in June, or July 1952, after certain questions were asked in the House, the Prime Minister expressed himself generally against the idea of Mini-

sters on tour staying with business people, and in view also of the fact that since then, Ministers' tour programme sent to Members of Parliament generally omit mention of where they are staying, may I know if Government are taking steps to make sure that Ministers tours do not lend themselves to colourable conclusions?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are going from Dalmia-Jain to something else.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Staying with a person, first of all, is different from inspecting a factory—it is a very different thing. As regards this, what I said on the previous occasion generally applies. But it is not what I would call an absolute rule; there are sometimes some places where there is no help but to stay; there is no other place to stay.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Prime Minister stated that this programme was arranged by the Government of Bihar. May I know the name of the particular Minister or official of the Government of Bihar who wrote a letter or telephoned to the Minister of Commerce and Industry? May I also know what are the other industrial centres which the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry visited?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I really do not understand these questions. If there is any implication in them, I protest against it. I just do not understand this business of trying to find out who telephoned and at what time. I confess I am completely at a loss to know that the hon. Member is driving at. There are some big industrial undertakings in Bihar which ought to be visited—which are visited from time to time by the Commerce and Industry Minister; it is his duty and business to visit these places. It so happened that round about that time Shri Ramkrishna Dalmia was arrested. I doubt if anybody knew about his arrest except the Finance Minister and me before that.

Shri Kamath: And Home Minister?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I just seek a clarification?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: It arises out of this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am going to the next question.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Before you go to the next question, I want to know this on a point of information from you. It arises out of a ruling you have given just now. You say that the matter with regard to the question raised by Shri G. P. Sinha is before the court. The matter at present is not before the court. The interests of the persons insured with the Bharat Insurance Company are involved. What

protection are Government able to give to them to see that they do not lose all their money? It is not going to come up before the court, nor is any court going to look after that part of the question. Therefore, we would like to know from the Finance Minister or from the Prime Minister what the Government intend to do about this..... Let me finish. We would like to know from Government about this matter because insurance is under government protection; it is under Government control to a very great extent. Therefore, we would like to know what steps Government intend to take to see that those who are insured with the Bharat Insurance Company do not lose what they might have paid already to that company—I am one of them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are all very important questions on which proper questions may be framed and answers elicited. So far as this question is concerned, it relates only to eliciting information to whether it is a fact that the hon. Commerce and Industry Minister visited Dalmia Nagar on the eve of the arrest of Shri Ramkrishna Dalmia, is the Finance Minister also going to visit that place; and if so, the purpose of the visit. We are not going into the question as to under what circumstances Shri Ramkrishna Dalmia has been arrested or what are the consequences, how the those persons who have insured their lives with the Bharat Insurance Company have to be protected and safeguarded. This would be another question.

An Hon. Member: Dalmia's arrest is mentioned there.

Shri Jaipal Singh: On a point of privilege, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A question of privilege can be raised in the proper manner by writing to me, and if I give my consent, I may either bring it before the House or place it before the Privileges Committee. There is no question of privilege that can be raised off hand in this House.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I rise to a point of order, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the point of Order?

Shri Jaipal Singh: The Leader of the House stated something which I did not know was the truth. We had hitherto had the privilege of being informed whenever a Central Minister visited our constituencies. The Leader of the House just now said that there is no point in any Member being informed. I do hope....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a point of order.

Dr. Rama Rao: Please allow me, Sir, to point out that the question looks a bit out of date. The notice was given on the 12th August when the negotiations were still going on.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does he want to put the question or not?

Dr. Rama Rao: Unless the hon. Members know....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me know what the hon. Member wants. Does he want to put the question or not?

Dr. Rama Rao: One month and 16 days have lapsed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let it be two months.

Dr. Rama Rao: I seek your guidance. It is a short notice question dated the 12th August.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let him put the question. He has had his way.

Loan to Burma

S.N.Q. No. 18, Dr. Rama Rao: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations are being conducted for advancing a loan to Burma;

(b) if so, the amount asked for and the amount that Government contemplate giving; and

(c) terms of the loan?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C.D. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). At the request of the Government of the Union of Burma the Government of India have agreed to give Burma a loan of Rs. 10 crores. In addition, they have also agreed to allow a credit to the extent of another Rs. 10 crores to enable Burma to finance her purchases in India.

(c) The terms of the loan and credit will be discussed with a Burmese mission which arrived in Delhi yesterday.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know whether the Government can give huge loans or give away large amounts as in last year without the leave of the House?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is a question of opinion and procedure. In the first place, whether the loan is a huge one and secondly, what is the best procedure to follow before the House is informed of anything that is in progress.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know whether it is not the duty of the Government of India both fraternally and morally

to go to the aid of Burma in her time of necessity, especially when she has rejected a loan from America for her building up?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the question for which he wants an answer? Next hon. Member.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In view of the fact that we are assisting the Government of the Union of Burma with nearly Rs. 20 crores, may I know whether in the negotiations that are taking place now in New Delhi the question of persuading Burma to consume our tea in preference to Ceylon tea will also be put before them because at the present moment they are not taking any tea from us?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Many things can be done.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want to know whether this would be one of the items that would be included in the talks.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I think it would be a matter which would be extraneous to the purport of these negotiations. They want the credit only to purchase commodities which they have decided to purchase from us and I do not think it would be right for us to suggest that something else be purchased from us. In any case, my colleague here reminds me that we have not got any surplus tea at the moment.

Dr. Rama Rao: While it is very desirable to assist a good neighbour like Burma, may I know how the Government will find money when they are not able to find money for essential projects in India due to stringency of funds?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: We have a certain amount of sterling balances. This sum as compared with the balances that we have is not a very large one and we have yet to decide for what period this loan is to be advanced to the Burma Government.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Finance Minister said that Burma will be accommodated to the tune of Rs. 20 crores for the purpose of financing purchases in India.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is not correct; it is only a loan of Rs. 10 crores.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Let it be Rs. 10 crores. May I know whether in these negotiations the Government of India will use their influence with the Burmese representatives to see that prawns worth Rs. 3 crores which were being taken regularly from Travancore-Cochin by Burma and which are now banned will be also resumed?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There is a likelihood of the purchase of prawns being considered during the course of these negotiations.