

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Theft of Geological Maps

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 S.N.Q. 6. { Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath;
 Shri Maheswar Naik;
 Shri Vishwa Nath
 Pandey;
 Shri Kachhavalaya;
 Shri Gokaran Prasad;

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of geological maps, aerial photographs, photostat copies and topographical sheets on India-Pakistan and India-Tibet borders have disappeared from the Calcutta Office of the Geological Survey of India:

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been held in the matter; and

(c) with what result?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). No, Sir. Certain allegations to that effect were investigated by a Committee appointed by the Director, Geological Survey of India in 1959 and the finding was that the allegations were unfounded.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has the Minister's attention been drawn to the proceedings of the West Bengal Legislature on the 24th of last month where allegations, charges and statements were made to the effect that thousands of maps and photographs and photostat copies and topographical sheets have disappeared from the office of the Geological Survey of India in Calcutta, and even in the absence of a contradiction by the Chief Minister, as reported in the papers, is the House to understand that the allegations are unfounded?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The Government of India are responsible for the Geological Survey of India. We

have made an enquiry into it, and it is absolutely baseless.

Shri Hem Barua: Who made the enquiry? It was in 1959—

Mr. Speaker: Such things arose, and they made enquiries and it was found to be unfounded.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I know whether the Government of India will further probe into this matter in view of the fresh allegations made in the West Bengal Legislature on the 24th February—only a fortnight ago—and ascertain the truth of the statements?

Shri C. Subramaniam: These allegations were made as long ago as 1959. I am sorry the hon. Member has revived that again.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am not reviving it, but the West Bengal Council.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I thought that there were some allegations with regard to some recent happenings. There is no such thing. This was the only allegation. It has been gone into fully, and as a matter of fact, these allegations were made by a disgruntled officer who wrote all sorts of petitions. An enquiry has been made against him and he has been dismissed. He has taken out a writ petition and that writ petition is coming up here today in the Punjab High Court for hearing.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He has referred to the happenings in 1959. I refer to the statements made in the West Bengal Legislature on February 24th this year, that is, a fortnight ago. Today is the 10th of March.

Mr. Speaker: In the legislature also, it had come up. What was ascertained, what was denied or not denied—that was also about the old incident and not any recent disappearance.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He did not make it clear.

Mr. Speaker: Not any recent disappearance of maps. It only related to the old incident. That is what he is answering; I suppose the Minister means that only.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether a complete catalogue of such materials was maintained and, if so, when was the last physical check-up of the complete catalogue made and with what result?

Shri C. Subramaniam: A record is kept, but I do not know how often it is verified. But there is absolutely no basis for the allegation that maps or documents are missing.

श्री कछवाय : हमारे देश में पाकिस्तानी जासूसों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस मामले में भी किन्हीं जासूसों का हाथ था, क्या इन लोगों का भी इस से कोई सम्बन्ध था, यदि हाँ तो, इस तरह की चीजों की रोकथाम करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

प्रभ्यक्ष महोदय : कोई चीज ही नहीं हुई तो सम्बन्ध कैसे हो सकता है।

Shri Hem Barua: From what I understand, the hon. Minister has referred to the incident of 1959. But there are fresh allegations to the effect that maps have been pilfered from this particular office and there are allegations of involvement of the Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner's office in Calcutta in this particular incident. Therefore, we are very much excited and we want to know what is the actual position.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have not heard of any fresh or recent allegations. If the hon. Member is aware of any facts, he may pass on those facts

to me and I shall certainly look into them.

Shri Paliwal: May I know whether, after the enquiry, it was notified for general information that the allegations were baseless?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It was the subject-matter of a question in Parliament in 1960 and the matter was clarified.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a recent incident where a man named Masood had a photographic establishment in the establishment of the Geological Survey of India and he was doing all these things and he had connections with this, and whether the 1959 enquiry related to this allegation or the earlier allegation?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as the facts 'I have' are concerned, no fresh allegations recently have been made about the disappearance of maps or documents. It was only in 1959 and that has been enquired into. Without further facts with regard to anything happening in the Geological Survey recently, no new enquiry can be made.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is there sufficient, tight, security over the maps, or if they do not have tight security measures, have they sought the assistance of the Home Ministry for this purpose?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We have got classifications with regard to security matters and when security matters are involved, security measures are also taken.

Shri Surendramath Dwivedy: The Minister has not yet clarified whether the particular allegation made in the West Bengal Council has been investigated and found to be incorrect.

Shri C. Subramaniam: My understanding is as it has been referred to in the short notice question, the reference in the West Bengal Legislative Council is also with reference to that incident and that has been enquired into, because I have not heard of any fresh allegations with regard to this.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Agricultural Production Board

*511. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Agricultural Production has decided that the Central Government should give financial assistance for intensive cultivation of rice and wheat on the same basis as is given in the case of cotton and oilseeds in 1964-65;

(b) the salient points of this aid programme including the quantum of aid and the manner in which the money given will be spent; and

(c) the names of States to which financial assistance is to be given for intensive rice and wheat cultivation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) 50 per cent financial assistance would be provided by the Centre for additional staff besides the usual subsidies available in the Plan for improved seeds, phosphatic fertilisers, agriculture implements etc.

(c) A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2483/64].

Foodgrains Licensing Order

*512. { **Shri Himatsingka:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration the issue of a model foodgrains licensing order; and

(b) if so, the salient features, thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Foodgrains Dealers Licensing Orders are already in force in all the States. With a view to strengthening the control on traders and for the purpose of bringing about more or less uniform conditions of dealer's licence throughout the country, a model draft licensing order was prepared and sent to the State Governments with the suggestion that their existing Order might be revised on the lines of the model draft.

(b) The new features introduced in the latest model draft licensing order are as follows:—

(i) Provision for a security deposit of Rs. 500/- or Rs. 1,000/-, depending on the turnover, which would be forfeited for breach of any licensing provisions or regulatory orders;

(ii) Maintenance of storage at places declared by the licensees;

(iii) Exhibition of prices at the shops and sales to be made only to retailers registered with the wholesaler and in accordance with such directions as a competent authority may issue from time to time;

(iv) Compliance by the licensees of instructions of such marketing authority as may be having jurisdiction in the market or mandi concerned, if it is a regulated market, or such other body as may be recognized by the Government in case of an unregulated market; and

(v) Prohibiting a licensee from charging a price in any locality for any foodgrains higher