

Trading Corporation are paying demurrage at the rate of 850 pounds sterling per day for the last 10 days on this ship, and

(e) if so, the action being taken in this matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh), (a) to (e) The State Trading Corporation entered into four contracts with a New York Firm through their Indian agents, for the import of 45,000 tonnes of sulphur on C&F basis during the period March June 1967. A shipment of 10,000 tonnes against the first contract arrived in Bombay by vessel "Demitrios" (a Greek Flag vessel) in May 1967. It was cleared and sold to the nominees of the technical authorities. A second consignment of 10,000 tonnes against the second contract was brought by 'ss Apatouria'. The documents indicated that the consignment was of Dutch origin and that the sulphur shipped per ss 'Apatouria' was loaded at Rotterdam. The vessel reached Bombay by about the 14th June 1967.

On receipt of a complaint that the sulphur brought by "Apatouria" was of Polish origin instead of Dutch origin and that the goods were loaded at Gdynia, a Polish Port, the Customs authorities did not allow the material to be unloaded and the shipping documents were taken over from the clearing agents of the STC for investigation. As the material had to be distributed among various major chemical factories on an urgent basis the STC request the customs authorities to allow the material to be cleared. They have agreed to do so on the STC furnishing a bond, which has since been executed. The vessel is expected to berth and discharge cargo shortly.

The STC has given notice to the suppliers in New York and their Indian agents that they will be responsible for any demurrage or wharfage and/or any other losses/expenditure which the STC may have to incur arising out of any breach of the terms of the contract as regards origin.

The matter is being investigated further.

Price of Cotton

4851. Shri Shivajirao S. Deshpande:
Shri E. D. Bhandare:
Shri K. G. Deshpande:
Shri Anantirao Patil:
Shri Pratap Singh:
Shri D. S. Pathi:
Shri Vikaram Chand

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission as regards price policy of raw cotton

(b) if so, the broad features of the recommendations and Government's reaction thereto

(c) whether Government have received any recommendations from the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Textile Advisory Board

(d) if so, when and the salient features thereof and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh) (a) to (e) Cotton price policy for the season September 1967 to August, 1968 is under consideration in the light of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and the Cotton Advisory Board. The Indian Central Cotton Committee has been abolished by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the question of getting recommendations of the Committee does not arise.

Selection of Relieving Transportation Assistants

4852 Shri B. K. Dasgupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the selection of Relieving Transportation Assistants by a Board of Selection, appointed by the