

(b) The schemes relate mainly to the provision of accommodation and recreational facilities.

(c) There are restrictions on the entry of foreigners into the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands, and of Indians into the Nicobar group. At present there is no proposal to withdraw these restrictions.

Pilferage of Goods in Transit from "M. V. Andaman" and "M.V. Nicobar"

2306. Shri K. R. Ganesh: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the large scale transit losses, and pilferage of goods and merchandise from 'M.V. Andaman' and 'M.V. Nicobar', the mainland-Andaman Island vessels;

(b) whether repeated representations have been made to the Andaman Administration by the local chamber of Commerce and other public bodies; and

(c) the steps taken to eliminate such losses and pilferages?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a). Yes Sir. The percentage of losses due to pilferage of goods and merchandise from the figures so far available is approximately 2.03 per cent of the value of stores shipped

(b) and (c). It is a fact that representations in this regard have been received by the Andaman Administration. Efforts are being made in response to the representations received and in consultation with the Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shipping Corporation of India and the Port authorities at Calcutta and Port Blair to minimise the scope of such losses and to evolve detailed measures to eliminate losses in transit of goods.

Cargo for Assam

2307. Shri B. Barua: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of fertilizer and cement have been held up in cargo vessels of R.S.N. and Rly. meant for Assam;

(b) if so, how long and what quantities of each of the items are so detained;

(c) how far the tea industry is affected for this in respect of current year's production; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to expedite the release of these essential items for delivery to the tea industry?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b). About 1200 tonnes of fertilizer and 4900 tonnes of cement were held up in transit for about a month

(c) The production of tea is not likely to be affected materially as the industry obtains the bulk of its requirements of cement and fertilizer by the all-rail route and only small quantities are moved by the rail-cum-river route.

(d) As soon as it became possible for the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation to commence operations, necessary arrangements were made to move the cargo held up.

Diversion of Ships Carrying Food to India

2308. Shri Virendrakumar Shah:
Shri M. Meghachandra:
Shri Dhireswar Kalita:
Shri K. Haldar:
Shri Atam Das:

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

(a) whether diversion of ships carrying food supplies from the USA and other countries to India from the

Suez Canal taking the Cape of Good Hope route, is likely to adversely affect the already serious food situation in the country;

(b) if so, how far the food supplies are likely to be delayed; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid any serious dislocation in supply arrangements?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). Attention is invited to the Statement made by the Minister of Food and Agriculture and supplementary questions answered thereon in the Lok Sabha on 9-8-1967 regarding delay in the arrival of foodgrain vessels consequent on the closure of the Suez Canal.

12.16 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE
(Query)

Mr. Speaker: Now we will take up the Calling Attention Notice. Shri Yashpal Singh.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Before you take up the Calling Attention Notice, may I point out that there is a serious development in China in regard to our Embassy about which you have admitted a Calling Attention Notice. It is an urgent matter.

Mr. Speaker: I know, I entirely agree that it is a very urgent and important matter. That is why I have admitted it immediately. It came this morning and I admitted it immediately. Anything admitted today will come up only tomorrow. But, if the hon. Minister wants to make a statement today itself, I will be very happy.

Shri A. B. Vajpayee (Balrampur): The Minister should be directed to make a statement.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Parlia-

ter and let the House know. Anyway, this evening we have a one-hour debate, of course, on a separate subject. So, this can be taken up tomorrow. But if the Minister wants to make it earlier, I would welcome it.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): The Minister is in the Rajya Sabha, now. So, if you will permit Sir, the statement can be made at 5 P. M. today or tomorrow morning after the question hour.

Mr. Speaker: At 5 P. M. today we have got another debate.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Then 4.30 p.m. will be all right.

CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

(1) CHARGES LEVELLED BY DEPUTY CHIEF
MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL AGAINST
UNION MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

श्री यशपाल सिंह (देहरादून) मैं
प्रविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित
विषय की श्रद्धा गृह वाय मंत्री का ध्यान
दिताता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस
वार में एक बतव्य दें

'पश्चिमी बंगाल के उप मुख्य मंत्री
द्वारा केन्द्रीय गृह काय मंत्री
पर लगाए गए आरोप कि उन्होंने
अधिकारियों को पश्चिम बंगाल
की सरकार के खिलाफ बग़ावत
करने के लिए उकसाया।'

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have seen press reports of a statement made by Shri Jyoti Basu, Deputy Chief Minister, West Bengal, on 4th June, 1967, on this subject. I had received notices from the Lok Sabha Secretariat under rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business regarding this matter.

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldal): Sir,