

Stoppage of Cash Doles to Displaced Persons in Tripura

2493. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 150 families of displaced persons of Chakmaghat (Teliamura), Tripura have been starving due to the discontinuation of cash doles and absence of any other alternative relief offered by Government,

(b) whether it is also a fact that an inmate of the Camp had died of starvation on the 25th July, 1959, and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide immediate relief to the inmates of the displaced persons' camps of Tripura?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) No The cash doles of these displaced families were stopped as they refused to go to the rehabilitation sites offered to them

(b) No The reported death was due to chronic dysentery and malignant malaria

(c) The offer of rehabilitation is still open and some of these families are reported to be now willing to go to the rehabilitation sites

Modernisation and Rehabilitation of Cotton Mills in West Bengal

2494. Shri Halder: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bengal Mill-owners Association have approached Government to grant licences unconditionally to cotton mills in West Bengal for the import of processing and finishing machinery required in connection with the modernisation and rehabilitation of their productive plants; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

225 LSD—5

The Minister for Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No change in the import policy in respect of processing and finishing machinery is envisaged for the time being

Imprisonment of Bhutanese runners by Chinese

2495. Shri P C Borooah: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that two Bhutanese runners were imprisoned by the Chinese in Yatung recently though they were carrying mail of the Maharaja of Bhutan, and

(b) if so, the details of the incident?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes Sir

(b) According to information available with us on the 16th July, 1959 two runners started for Thumpu via Gangtok with mail from the Bhutan Agent at Kalimpong. When the men reached Rinchengang the Chinese stopped them and questioned as to what they were carrying. The bags were also opened and the runners were held up for 18 days during which they were subjected to certain hardships

The Government of India who are responsible for external relations of Bhutan have at the request of Bhutan Government represented to the Chinese Government against the arrest and ill treatment of Bhutanese couriers. The Chinese reply is still awaited

Import of Photographic Materials

2496. Shri M Khuda Bukhsh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that all imports of photographic material from Dollar areas were totally banned during the July-December 1949 period,

(b) whether any licence was granted to any firm for importing goods from Dollar areas during the same period in contravention of the Import Trade Control Rules, and *

(c) if so, the full particulars of the firms and the reasons because of which such licences were issued.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The records for the year 1949 have been destroyed. It is, therefore, difficult to collect the information. Efforts are, however, being made to collect the information and the same will be laid on the Table of the Sabha, if available

Import of Photographic Goods

2497. Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that some newcomers were granted licences for import of photographic goods falling under serial Nos 303 and 305 of part IV of the Import Trade Control Schedule during the period January to June, 1954 far in excess of Rs 25,000 which is the maximum permissible amount, and

(b) if so, the full particulars of the firms and the reasons because of which such licences were issued?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The details of licences issued and full particulars of the firms are published in the Weekly Bulletin of Import Trade Control, a copy of which is available in the Parliament Library

As regards reasons for issue of these licences attention is invited to Public Notice No 47-ITC(PN)54, dated the 11th May, 1954, a copy of which is laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 58]

Import of Photographic Goods

2498 Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that duplicate licences were granted for the import of goods falling under Serial Nos. 303 and 305 of Part IV of the Import Trade Schedule for the Licensing periods of January/June, 1954, January/June, 1957, October, 1957/March, 1958, April/September 1958, October, 1958/March, 1959 and April/September 1959 for the same item for the same currency area and for the same period,

(b) if so, the full particulars thereof, and

(c) the authority under which such duplicate import licences were allowed?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo). (a) and (c) Presumably, by duplicate licences, the Honourable Member is referring to additional or supplementary licences granted for the import of photographic goods. Provision had been made to grant additional licences to Established Importers during the licensing period January-June, 1954 for reasonable amounts in suitable cases for the import of photographic goods falling under S Nos 303/IV and 305/IV of the Import Trade Control Schedule. This facility was also extended to persons or firms other than Established Importers and New Comers. A copy of the Public Notice No 47-ITC(PN)/54, dated the 11th May, 1954 has been placed on the Table of the Sabha today in reply to Unstarred Question No 2497. This scheme of additional or supplementary licences was withdrawn in January-June, 1957 licensing period. As a result of representations, however, during the October, 1957-March, 1958 period, a provision was again made in that period for the grant of supplementary licences to Established Importers equal to 75% of the aggregate face value of the quota licences for S. Nos. 303/IV and