

27th April, 1960 regarding shell-fishing in Andaman and Nicobar Island and state:

(a) whether investigations in regard to the question whether the vessel "M.V. Daya" was specifically authorised to carry cargo in 1957 have since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b). The investigations have revealed that the vessel "M.V. Daya" was registered as a shell-fishing boat only with effect from the 9th January, 1958. As such, it did not require any specific authorisation for carrying cargo in 1957.

(c). No further action is called for.

Chairman, National Book Trust

1177. Maharajkumar Vijay Anand: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding the appointment of a new Chairman of the National Book Trust;

(b) if so, when will the new Chairman assume charge; and

(c) whether the post of the Chairman carries any salary?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a). Yes.

(b). The provisional date has been fixed for 12th September, 1960.

(c). The post is honorary at present. The new Chairman will be a whole time officer and it is proposed to pay him a fixed salary of Rs. 2,000 p.m.

Purchase of a Vessel by Andaman Administration

1178. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman Administration wants to purchase a vessel for making water-boat;

(b) whether the Harbour Master, Port Blair, had a vessel of M/s. Akoojee Jadwet & Co. inspected by Captain Javdekar of Mercantile Marine Department, Calcutta, who was in Port Blair in May 1960 in connection with the work of Deck Passengers' Welfare Committee;

(c) whether it is true that the vessel in question has been lying for the last five years or so and if so, what is its condition now; and

(d) what are the opinions of Capt. Javdekar, Marine Engineer and Harbour Master respectively about this vessel?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a). Yes; an indent has been placed by the Administration with the Director General, Supplies and Disposals.

(b). Yes; the vessel "Mahmoodiya" belonging to Akoojee Jadwet & Co., was inspected by Captain Javdekar.

(c). The vessel has been lying in the harbour for some years and a technical inspection was needed to assess its suitability for use as a water boat.

(d). Captain Javdekar, the Harbour Master and the Marine Engineer, Port Blair, were unanimous in their opinion that the vessel required extensive repairs. The purchase of the boat was not considered worthwhile in view of the high costs of repairs involved.

Collection of Excise Duty

**1179. { Shri Kalika Singh:
Shri K. U. Parmar:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of excise duty collected region-wise for the years 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60;

(b) whether there has been an undue rise or fall in the amount related to any particular commodity or commodities;