

Appointment Orders to Persons from Kerala in SCI

10397. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointment orders allegedly signed by an officer of Shipping Corporation of India, Bombay were given to a number of persons in Kerala.

(b) whether telex messages were also sent to the selected persons informing the date and place for joining duty;

(c) whether these persons who got the appointment order and telex messages are not yet appointed;

(d) whether any complaints have been received that lakhs of rupees have been collected from these persons for giving such appointment orders; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). Some persons have made complaints that they received letters of appointment allegedly signed by one Sh. J. A. Kamble, Dy. Manager of SCI for jobs on Off-shore Supply Vessels. These persons have also complained that they had received telegrams alleged to have been sent by SCI.

(c) Since SCI was neither contemplating any recruitment of crew on Off-shore Supply Vessels nor had called any candidates for test, interviews etc, there was no question of appointing these persons in SCI.

(d) The representations and petitions received by SCI allege that the persons concerned have paid some amounts to a persons employed as a Head Cook on one of SCI's vessels.

(e) The concerned Head Cook was discharged from the last vessel on 21.6.1989 on short leave. Despite repeated messages from SCI, he has not reported back to SCI for duties. In view of this, SCI has not been able to take any action against him. As per a recent message received, he is expected to report for duties by end of May, 1990.

As regards Shri Kamble, Dy. Manager, SCI, on the basis of complaints received, SCI immediately suspended him on 1.10.1989 and a Departmental Committee was appointed to investigate into this matter. Shri Kamble filed a Writ petition in the Bombay High Court. The Bombay High Court *vide* their Order dated 7.2.1990 directed the SCI to complete the enquiry including passing of an Order on or before 30.4.1990, failing which the impugned order of suspension dated 4.10.1989 shall stand automatically revoked. The enquiry could not be completed by 30.4.1990 and, as directed by the High Court, the suspension has been revoked and Shri Kamble reported for duty w.e.f. 2.5.1990. The departmental enquiry is still in progress. Government have also referred the matter to CBI in January, 1990 for a thorough investigation.

Acquisition of Land for Farm Houses

10398. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been spurt in acquisition of agricultural land around New Delhi by the affluent section of people for construction of palatial buildings as 'farm houses';

(b) if so, the number of farm houses which have come-up during the past Five years and the area acquired for the same; and

(c) whether Government propose to

ban the sale of agricultural land for construction of farm houses and the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Employment of Unemployed Youth's for Census Work

10399. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to engage unemployed youths for census work, 1990-91 instead of teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to Section 4(2) of the Census Act, 1948, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations appoint persons to take the Census. Being a controlled and time bound operation, Government/Local body staff like primary school teachers, clerks and revenue field officials are only temporarily appointed for census work. There is, therefore, no proposal to engage unemployed youths for the 1991 Census.

Forward Market in Copra Trade

10400. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

permit forward market in Copra to help coconut industry;

(b) whether Government have received representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Department of Civil Supplies in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies have received a representation from the Alleppey Oil Millers' and Merchants' Association, Kerala.

(c) The Government of India does not intend to permit forward trading in Copra for the present. The reasons are:

(i) The numerous varieties of copra differ in oil content, moisture, colour, etc. It would therefore be difficult to fix 'on' or 'off' allowances for superior and inferior varieties of Copra in relation to the basis variety of a futures contract.

(ii) The current market prices of Copra in Cochin are around Rs. 1530-1550 per quintal. In view of the support price of Rs. 1600 declared by the Government of India, if any forward trade is permitted, it will be subject to the minimum price of Rs. 1600/- quintal. The current price levels will therefore to generate sufficient buyers in the futures market for copra, at present.