

and suburbs have moved up by 25 per cent during the last three months as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) and (b). According to information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra some prominent Bengali film artists have recently gone to Bombay for their professional work. No instance of prominent businessmen migrating to Bombay has come to their notice. The Government of West Bengal also do not have any information to confirm any migration of prominent film actors, businessmen and others from Calcutta to Bombay. According to Government of Maharashtra the rise in the value of residential flats and office premises cannot only be attributed to any migration from Calcutta. The rise has been a continuing trend during the last several years due to the influx of people into Bombay from all over the country and the shortage of residential and office accommodation in the city.

(c) Does not arise.

Prices of Industrial Salt in Maharashtra and West Bengal

599. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Industrial or Chemical salt is being sold at Rs. 50 per tonne in the State of Maharashtra and the same is sold in West Bengal at the rate of Rs. 120 per tonne; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While Maharashtra produces enough salt to meet its own requirements, West Bengal has to obtain almost all its require-

ments from the West Coast and Tuticorin and the transportation charges add to the selling price. Price differential is inevitable in the circumstances.

Acquisition of Shares of Mysore Paper Mills Ltd. by a large Business House

600. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some persons belonging to a large Business House are acquiring the shares of the Mysore Paper Mills Ltd. in which the Central Government holds substantial number of shares ;

(b) whether representations from minority share-holders have been received by Government in this regard ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir; but the Central Government have no shareholding in this Company.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Various suggestions have been made to the State Government to ensure that no single group acquires control over the affairs of the Company.

12 hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

श्री भानुसिंह शीरा (भटिका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मैंने एक प्रिविलेज क्वेश्चन भेजा था। आप ने कहा है कि उस को आप ने होम मिनिस्टर को भेज दिया है। होम मिनिस्टर साहब गवर्नर को भेज देंगे, गवर्नर.....

Mr. SPEAKER : वह तो बाद में जायेगा।

Let his leader kindly explain to him that this will be taken up after the call

attention notice.

माननीय सदस्य स्पीकर की बात ही नहीं सुनना चाहते हैं, वह प्रेज्यूम कर लेते हैं कि स्पीकर हमारे खिलाफ हैं।

12.1 Hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
 OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
 REPORTED BLOWING UP ON A WAGON
 CARRYING ARMY EXPLOSIVES NEAR
 FARIDKOT AND PIPLI IN PUNJAB

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA (Ludhiana) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported blowing up of a wagon carrying army explosives between Faridkot and Pipli in Punjab and damage caused to road links and Railway links in the North-East Frontier Railway in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura."

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, On 15. 11. 1971 at 15.32 hours a fire broke out in a military truck (containing ammunition boxes) which had been loaded in an open wagon. The incident took place near Pipli Pakhi Kalan flag station near Faridkot. As a result, some of the ammunition caught fire and exploded. According to our present information the fire was accidental, and no sabotage is suspected.

There have been twelve incidents of sabotage to railway lines in the Eastern sector, particularly in the States of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura since 25th March, 1971. We have reasonable grounds to believe that these incidents have been the work of Pakistani saboteurs and agents. There have also been seven instances of damage being caused to road bridges/culverts in these States by Pak saboteurs.

Honourable Members might recollect the statement which the Defence Minister had made in this House on 15th November in which he had pointed out the serious situation which we face along our borders

due the machinisations of the Pakistani Military Rulers. These acts of sabotage are part of their well-designed scheme to disrupt our lines of communications in these sensitive areas, and also to create panic in our civil population. We have taken a number of steps to prevent such incidents to protect the lives of our population, and maintain our system of communication in this region. We are fully alive to these dangers on our eastern borders with Bangla Desh and that we are taking all possible steps to safeguard the lives and property of Indian citizens in this region.

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a cause for satisfaction to know that the explosion near Pipli was not the result of a sabotage, but the satisfaction is marred in the knowledge that we transporting our high explosives in open wagons or in tarpaulin-covered trucks thus inviting disastrous accidents. May I know if the Defence Minister would devise scientific and safe methods to transport our ammunition so that we do not have it exploding in our own hands and also, in that process, disrupt our communication system ?

Secondly, 19 incidents of a sabotage in seven months, and that alone in the eastern region, are a very disturbing fact. It is a very good that we have taken steps to protect the people and maintain communication, as the Minister said just now, but in this hour of peril, efforts alone cannot be a sufficient measure of our competence. I think we will have to go by the results achieved and not merely by the efforts made.

May I, therefore, ask if the Defence Minister would give an assurance to the House that the hopes that in the days to come, the incidents of sabotage will be curbed if not completely overcome ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, there is a way and procedure to transport these dangerous stores like ammunition. Obviously, there was some fault in the transportation because of which this accident took place. The railways are constituting a court of enquiry and we hope that we will be able to precisely find out the reason why this incident took place.