

unless the principle of equity is satisfied. Income tax is being levied on the basis of the principles of equity, and it cannot be levied heavier than what the people can bear.

MR. SPEAKER: Question 396-A Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh is not here. Question 397.

Palmoline Imported by STC lying at Kandla Port

*397. SHRI AJIT BAG: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large stocks of palmoline imported by STC are lying at Kandla Port for a long time ;
- (b) If so, the quantity of such palmoline ; and
- (c) since when the said oil is lying at Kandla Port and demurrage paid by STC till the end of October, 1981 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). The quantity of palmoline lying in stock with STC Kandla has been varying from 10,000 to 20,000 MTs. during the period between 1-7-81 to 1-12-81.

(c) The age of stocks cannot be determined as fresh stocks of palmoline are mixed with the old stocks. However, last arrival of palmoline at

Kandla was on 10-11-1981 when a vessel of 5,000 MTs. was received.

STC had paid Rs. 5,72,000/- Approx (US \$ 63,566) between 1-4-81 to 31-10-81 as demurrage on account of Palmoline imports at Kandla.

SHRI AJIT BAG: From the reply given by the Hon. Minister, it appears that there has been a colossal loss of revenue, of the scale of \$ 63,566 and so on. In this context, I want to state that in the months of June and July this year, two ships carrying edible oil to the extent of 40,000 tonnes were stranded on the high seas for want of berthing facilities at Bombay Port. Will the Minister inform the House how much demurrage STC paid on account of that, and how much demurrage STC had to pay in other ports of India on account of such lapses. This is my first supplementary.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : So far as the demurrage paid by STC for the period which the Hon. Member wanted to know, i. e. in respect of Kandla is concerned, I have already given it in the statement. But in respect of the demurrage which STC had to pay for delay in berthing in different ports, I will require specific notice, because that information is not with me. Here, the Hon. Member would appreciate that STC has nothing to do with it, If there is congestion in the ports, we sometimes try to divert it, but wherever the oil jetty is available we try to take advantage of it. There too priority is given to petroleum. For instance in Kandla there is one oil jetty which is being shared by edible oil, and petrol or petroleum products. That is why, sometimes, they ask us to wait. If they ask us to wait for a reasonable period of time, then we have to pay demurrage. There is no way out of this.