

Shri S. M. Banerjee rose—

An Hon. Member: No questions.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am not asking questions. Why do you get upset?

I am thankful to the hon. Defence Minister for making the statement. My submission is only this, that this particular area has been taken over by the Jabalpur Corporation only recently. So there is enough scope for the Central Government or the Defence Ministry to have negotiations with the Madhya Pradesh Government and see that this particular land, if necessary, is allotted to these employees. The Ordnance Factory, Khamaria, has got quarters and they are constructing enough quarters.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister, as I understood him, said that they are not obliged to provide, anyhow they will take up this matter with the Madhya Pradesh Government.

Shri Krishna Menon: I have made an under-statement of the fact in this matter. We have done something for them, but wherever the hon. Member intervenes, he finds trouble where there is not any.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): About three days ago I had sent in a notice of a Calling Attention Motion. I do not know what has happened to it.

Mr. Speaker: I have sent it to the hon. Home Minister. He has to reply. I am awaiting the reply. I shall try to bring it up tomorrow if I find that the reply has been received. I shall issue a reminder also.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Maharajganj): I have sent notice for a discussion on the Tariff Commission Report.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will wait. There is Notice Office. I do not carry every one of these things in my mind. Automatically, whenever there is a Report, I fix up a no-day-yet motion and allow it. A date

has to be fixed. I would like to remind all hon. Members that there is a Notice Office here with a Superintendent. From there hon. Members will try to get information, and if they do not get, they can come and see me. I shall certainly supply them information. Only, let us not take away the time of the House on this. If such enquiries are made, I am not able to reply off-hand. I am told it has been admitted.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Kamaswamy): On behalf of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I rise to announce that Government business in this House for the week commencing 11th April, 1960 will consist of:

(1) Consideration of any item of business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(2) Discussion and voting of the Demands for Grants in respect of—

Ministry of Rehabilitation,
Ministry of Irrigation and Power,
Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, and
Ministry of Finance.

(3) Submission to the vote of the House of the outstanding Demands for Grants.

STATEMENT RE: KANDLA PORT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The future of Kandla and the township of Gandhidham has engaged our constant attention. We are fully conscious of the necessity of increasing the employment potential of the place and attracting large and medium scale industries to it. As one of the effective measures towards that end we have,

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

in consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Commerce and Industry, formulated a tentative scheme for the setting up of, what may be called, a Free Trade Zone at Kandla. It is an entirely new concept for the country and, therefore, we must necessarily proceed with it cautiously.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Rai Bareli): Why don't you lay it on the Table? It is very long.

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not very long.

The idea is to cordon off a small area at the port with a high barbed wire fencing, the entry into and the removal of goods from which could be suitably controlled. Within this area, facilities may be given for the establishment of appropriate industries and permission given to them for the import of raw materials and semi-processed goods for conversion into finished goods and export, without the need for the payment of import duty.

The industries to be established in the zone will be licensed and subjected to suitable supervision and control but the intention is that a party wishing to start a particular industry will be allowed to do so unless the establishment of such an industry is likely to set up unfair competition with a similar existing industry elsewhere in India. If there is a demand for the facility of the import of certain types of finished goods to be brought into and stored in the zone free of customs duty with a view to re-export to nearby countries, the grant of such a facility could also be considered. It would not, however, be possible to relax the ordinary restrictions as far as import into the rest of the country where it is a question of importing gold or certain special articles such as diamonds, watches, etc. are concerned.

A regular account will need to be kept of imports into and exports from the zone with a view to prevent smuggling of goods into other parts of India and also in order to secure and retain full advantage of the foreign exchange earnings realised by the export of goods manufactured or processed in the zone and exported to other countries. Any goods or materials moving into the country from the free trade zone will be subject to the normal import restrictions.

The details of the scheme are being worked out and will be given due publicity in the near future. In the light of the response received and the comments made by the commercial and industrial bodies, Government will finally decide on its introduction and its scope in the initial stages. Our tentative view is that the scheme may prove helpful in giving the much needed impetus to economic and industrial activity at Kandla.

12.16 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence. Out of six hours allotted, time has been taken to the extent of one hour. The balance of time is five hours. We will finish this Ministry today.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai (Kheri): The whole day should be allotted for this Ministry.

An Hon. Member: Up to 6.

Mr. Speaker: Five hours will mean up to 5.15. We will sit up to 6 O' Clock. Whether we will start the other Ministry or not, I shall try to find out.

An Hon. Member: This is a very important Ministry, Sir.