

श्री जगजीवन र.व. : जीना कि माननीय सदस्य को मालूम है पिछले साल अक्टूबर में कई एक राज्य सरकारों को डा लिखे गए थे। उन में से प्रायः सभी के जवाब आए हैं। जैसा कि मन्त्र्य महोदय को मालूम है, अधिकांश प्रान्तों में इस सम्बन्ध में प्रतिबन्ध है। कुछ में प्रांशिक रूप से प्रतिबन्ध है और कुछ में बिल्कुल प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है। तो जहाँ प्रांशिक प्रतिबन्ध है वहाँ पूर्ण प्रतिबन्ध हो जाय और जहाँ नहीं है वहाँ भी हो जाय इसीलिए पत्र-व्यवहार हुआ था और जो कुछ जवाब आये हैं उन को मैं कह सकता हू कि सन्तोषप्रद हैं लेकिन माननीय सदस्य को मालूम है कि इस बीच में ग्राम चुनाव आ गए इसलिए राज्य सरकारों के लिए सम्भव नहीं था कि वह इस पर अमली कदम उठा सकें। अभी 8, 9 अप्रैल को मुख्य मन्त्रियों का सम्मेलन है उसमें भी मैं इसका जिक्र करूँगा कि इस कमेटी की सिफारिश आने के पहले भी जहाँ कदम उठाये जा सकते हैं उठाये जायें।

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Bombay Steam Navigation Boat Service

+

S.N.Q. 5. Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Steam Navigation boat service on the Ratnagiri Coast has been closed;

(b) if so, the reluctant unemployment caused thereby;

(c) whether it is also a fact that passenger fares on this line has risen by 20 per cent; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Out of a total of 139 persons

affected, notices of retrenchment have been given to 56 persons at Bombay Docks and various offices of the Company on the Konkan Coast. 83 boat khalasies have been retrenched on payment of compensation.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: In view of the fact that this is an economically backward area and very little employment opportunities are available, may I know whether Government will absorb these unemployed people in the Shipping Corporation of India?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I shall look into that question.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: In view of the fact that there have been several notices in the press regarding the rise in fares, will Government give us an assurance that there will be no rise in fares?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: The question of rise in fares has been referred to a committee which has been appointed by Government on a request from the shipping company concerned for such rise. This committee is expected to submit its report by the 21st April. After the report has been received and Government have considered the report, they will be able to take a decision on the question raised by the hon. Member.

श्री हुकूम चन्द कछवाब : अध्यक्ष महोदय सामने ऊपर से एक परचा नीचे गिराया गया है। यह बड़ा आपत्तिजनक है। इस तरह सदन में हुआ तो हम सदन में काम नहीं कर सकेंगे। आप इसकी एन्क्वायरी कराइए कि परचा कैसे आया ?

Shri Dattatraya Kante: With reference to part (a) of the question, may I know whether Government have enquired into the reasons why the Bombay Steam Navigation Co. have discontinued their service?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: The question raised by the hon. Member involves a long history. The Bombay Steam Navigation Co. whose ships were to

be operated by the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. wanted to have a rise in fares as far back as 1960. Then, a committee was appointed under Shri P. S. Rao to go into the whole question, and the committee made a number of recommendations, one for an immediate rise in fares by 8 per cent, then the grant of an interest-free loan to the company for purchase of new ships, grant of a direct subsidy by the Maharashtra Government equal to the interest foregone by the Central Government, and then a further rise in fares by 7 per cent after the new ships arrived. Then, the Maharashtra Government were not anxious to see any rise in fares because the interest of the labour population was involved in the Bombay city. Therefore, they said they would be prepared to pay a subsidy also in lieu of the rise in fares. Subsequently there has been some trouble about the payment of subsidy. Some subsidy was paid, but all the subsidy that has been claimed has not been paid. Now the BSN Company have instituted a suit for the recovery of something like Rs. 22 lakhs as balance of subsidy for 1961-62 and subsidy for 1962-63. The case is now *sub judice* and the Maharashtra Government and the Government of India are jointly preparing their reply.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Minor Irrigation Projects in Drought-affected States

\*236 Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the special amount of money given and earmarked for the drought-affected States for small irrigation projects, tube wells, wells and pumping sets etc.;

(b) whether the work in the drought-affected areas is going on according to the schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha [Placed in Library. See No. LT-207/67].

##### Fertilisers for Tea Industry

\*237 Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Association of India has opposed the increase in the selling price of fertilizers, especially sulphate of ammonia, supplied to the tea industry with effect from the 1st February, 1967;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Fertilizer Association of India has not sent any representation opposing the increase in the selling price of fertilizers. But the Tea Association of India has in a memorandum addressed to Ministry of Commerce opposed the increase in selling prices of fertilizers supplied to the Tea Industry from 1st February, 1967.

(b) and (c). The representation of Tea Association of India is under examination and a decision thereon will be communicated to them in due course.

##### Deficit of Rice in India

\*238 Dr. Karni Singh:  
Shri C. Janardhanan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's rice deficit is more than the total world exports;