

Shri Umanath: My question is, whether it is a fact that the Australian and the United Kingdom rates have been fixed at 3.75 per cent only for the same reason of the closure of the Suez Canal, as against 20 to 25 per cent that is charged to us. I would like to know whether this differentiation in charges, between 3.75 per cent and 20 to 25 per cent, is not only discriminatory but also it is directed against mainly the Asian nations, and if so, what is the reaction of the Government.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: It is 17½ per cent for the United Kingdom Line and 10 per cent to Australia. Not 3½ per cent, the hon. Member has got the figures slightly inaccurate there. The difference between the two rates is due to a number of valid reasons. One is the distance differential. The second is, the inability of the customary cheap bunkers at Aden, whereas the far eastern service retains the customary cheap bunkers at Singapore. Then, the total freight income in the far east is higher than the total freight income to India. This is a percentage of a larger total.

Shri S. S. Kothari: Like income-tax surcharges, these freight surcharges ultimately tend to become part of the freight itself. When the West Asian crisis is over, would the hon. Minister see, or has he received any assurance, that this surcharge would be withdrawn and not become a part of the freight itself?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I can categorically say that the war surcharge cannot become a part of the normal freight.

Shri Piloo Mody: Is the Government aware that the Soviet Union are charging 112 per cent more for kerosene—35 per cent of it comes from there—and if so, I would like to know if they are increasing their charges commensurately to North Korea?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I am afraid I have no knowledge of the charge for North Korea. But I should clear one misunderstanding, and I would like to

point that the additional distance caused by the diversion in the case of the Soviet Union—that is, Odessa to Bombay—the number of extra days caused by the closure of the Suez Canal is 23, as against 13 i.e. a rise of 177 per cent. In the case of the United Kingdom lines, the extra days are 14, as against the original 18. In the case of the United States, it is 9 as against 21.

Shri Piloo Mody: What about North Korea?

Mr. Speaker: Order order

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Gurkha recruited for U. K. in India

872. **Shri Sharda Nand:**
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri Ranjit Singh:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to stop recruitment of Gurkhas in India for the British Army, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (**Shri Surendra Pal Singh**): (a) and (b). In reply to Unstarred Question No. 55 on 22nd May 1967 the Hon'ble Members in this House were informed that there are no British recruiting camps within India to recruit Gurkhas.

Contract for manufacture of AVRO-742.

873. **Shri Mohan Prasad:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri George Fernandes:
Shri Bhatnagar:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contract for the manufacture of Avro-742 was