

Technical aspects of designs submitted by various tenderers are under examination. In view of the fact that the expenditure sanction has yet to be issued, and various issues\* have yet to be settled with a number of authorities, it is premature to indicate the expected date of completion of the over-bridge.

**Proposal to Impose a 25 Percent Freight Surcharge on Cargo loaded at Indian Ports to London**

\*836 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state ,

(a) whether India Pakistan Conference, London has proposed to impose a 25 percent freight surcharge on cargo loaded at Indian ports for shipments to the ports of London ;

(b) if so, the justification for imposing the proposed surcharge ;

(c) whether this will adversely effect India's export trade ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the proposed surcharge is withdrawn by the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH):

(a) India Pakistan Conference has imposed a temporary surcharge of 25% in respect of vessels commencing to load cargo from London and for London with effect from 30-11-19 0.

(b) The reason advanced by the Conference is that their vessels are subjected to heavy delays consequent upon shortage of port labour as a result of certain re organisation in the deployment of labour at Tilbury Docks in London due to the implementation of the Delvin Committee's recommendations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Protests have already been lodged with the Conference against this surcharge directly by Shippers. The High Commission has also been advised to put pressure on the Port of London Authority to accede to the Conference request for additional labour force in Tilbury Docks or to rescind temporarily the orders to restrict India-Pakistan Conference ships to Tilbury Docks till the Delvin Plan is implemented and their reactions are awaited. Efforts are also being

made to prevail upon the Conference to withdraw the surcharge.

**Payment of L. I. C. Premium by Public Undertakings**

\*837. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation, there is a continuous default in the payments of premia collected from the public sector undertakings; municipalities and panchayat samitis as reported in the Hindu dated the 20th October, 1970 ;

(b) whether in one instance a public sector-undertaking deducted the premia from the employees salary but did not pass it on to the Life Insurance Corporation ;

(c) whether the dues of the public sector undertakings amount to about Rs. 4.0 crores; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India had stated that several public sector undertakings had delayed unduly payment of insurance premiums due under policies of general insurance taken out by them. He had also referred to a different matter, namely delay on the part of some public bodies like panchayats in remitting to the L.I.C. the premiums deducted by them from the salaries of their employees on account of life insurance policies taken out by the employees under Salary Savings Schemes.

(c) The general insurance premium outstanding from the public sector undertakings on 31.3.70 was about Rs. 4 crores.

(d) So far as general insurance premiums due from public sector undertakings are concerned, Government recently issued a circular to all State Governments and Ministries of the Central Government requesting them to instruct all concerned urgently to clear the arrears and also to pay premiums in future in time. As regards life insurance premiums, collected by the public bod concerned, the L.I.C. is pursuing the ma direct with the bodies concerned.