

there was a reference to political screening by the United States Government of foreign seamen?

Shri Alagesan: As I said in my reply, a resolution has appeared in one of the shipping journals.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: What steps have Government taken to minimise the hardship and other difficulties which will devolve on Indian seamen if they are required, as under this Act, to have passports as well as visas on their visit to America?

Shri Alagesan: As I said in my reply, the difficulties have been obviated and in actual practice there is no difficulty. We carried on negotiations with the Consular Authorities here and they have agreed to modify the procedure which obviates all these things.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do I take it that the kind of trouble and hardship to which Indian seamen are being subjected in the United States is not in conformity with usual international practice regarding treatment of seamen?

Shri Alagesan: I may tell the House that this Act applies to all countries and there is no discrimination against India as such.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Consular Authorities have been pleased to modify these regulations? Have they done it? If not, how long will it take to modify them?

Shri Alagesan: It is already in practice.

INDO-U.S. AGREEMENT ON AIR SERVICES

*63. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the talks on the proposed Indo-U.S. Agreement on Air Services resumed on the 11th May, 1953 between the representatives of the Governments of India and the U.S.A. has since been concluded?

(b) If so, what are the proposed terms and conditions of the Agreement?

(c) If not, what are the points on which difference still persists?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The discussions are still in progress. Views are being at present exchanged on a confidential basis.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I understand that on this question important talks had begun in New Delhi as early as November 1951. Will Government vouchsafe the reasons for this unconscionable delay?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is true that the informal discussions began as early as November 1951 but they were after all informal. The formal talks started much later and the points for discussion included certain things which are of vital interest for our international airline and for the development of civil aviation in our country as also in regard to the traffic that is taken up by the Pan American and the T.W.A.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it a fact that only countries like Britain, Netherlands and the United States can freely fly passengers from India to countries other than the United States of America?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir. We have entered into different types of agreement with different countries. The type of agreement which we have entered into with the United States is the Bermuda type which permits the lifting of the fifth freedom traffic.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Sir, may I know, how long are you going to keep these 'Secrets' as 'Confidential'?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So long as they are secret.

CO-ORDINATED SCHEME OF LOCUST CONTROL (STAFF)

*64. **Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the strength of the staff employed, separately for Officers and other categories, for the implementation of Co-ordinated Scheme of

Locust Control under the Technical Assistance Programme?

(b) Where in India are they employed?

(c) What has been the nature of their activities so far?

(d) How many of the members of the staff have undergone research course or other technical courses in Locust Control?

(e) What are their scales of pay and emoluments?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Sir, I beg to lay the answer as a statement on the Table of the House, with your permission. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 3.]

Shri V. P. Nayar: Copies have not been made available to us.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a long answer and must ordinarily be placed on the Table of the House so that previous notice may be given to hon. Members. If it has not been done I will allow it to be placed on the Table here and as soon as hon. Members have studied it they may put down a Short Notice Question and I will allow it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it not possible to give a gist?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It may not be possible to give a gist. Everything may be important.

STUDY OF CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETING IN ISRAEL.

*65. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four officers of the different States Governments, who were sent by the Government of India to Israel, in response to an invitation from that country to study their Co-operative System of Agriculture and Marketing, have returned and submitted their report; and

(b) if so, the main contents of the report?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) The Officers have since returned to India. Their reports are awaited.

(b) The main contents of their reports will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, the approximate date when these officers left India for Israel and the date when they arrived in India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They were asked to go for a month. One batch left on 5th March and another batch left after 5th.

Dr. M. M. Das: March, 1952 or March, 1953?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: March, 1953.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the co-operative system that was surveyed by the Indian officers in Israel was found useful to this country?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Only after they submit a report, Sir, we will be able to say.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know Sir, who are the four officers who have gone there?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Four of them were deputed: one from Bihar, one from Bengal, one from Bombay and another from Kashmir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Why has no one been deputed from the South?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Bombay is a part of South India.

TRANSFER OF HEADQUARTERS OF D.M.E.T. FROM BOMBAY TO CALCUTTA

*66. **Ch. Raghuraj Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the headquarters of the Director of Marine Engineering Training have been transferred from Bombay to Calcutta?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for this transfer?

(c) What expenditure are Government incurring on it every year?