

(b) The prices of Petrol per gallon in Bombay and Calcutta are as follows:—

Bombay	Rs. 2-11-0
Calcutta	Rs. 2-12-0

(c) Government has no information.

INDIAN NATIONALS IN SOUTH FRANCE

*1156. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain Indian Nationals were stranded in South France during the years 1940, 1941 and 1942?

(b) If so, how many?

(c) Is it a fact that some relief payments were made to those Indian Nationals by the then Government of India?

(d) If so, what amount and whether it is true that Government have been serving notices on those people asking for return of the amounts paid?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) The exact number is not known.

(c) Yes, to some of them.

(d) The exact amount paid as relief payments by the then Government of India is not known. The Government of India have not been serving notices on those people asking for return of the amounts paid. We are aware, however, of State Governments having issued notices as a last resort in a few cases where a debtor is in a position to repay.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

*1157. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether further action as contemplated in the Statement of the Ministry on recommendation 13 made by the Public Accounts Committee in its Sixth Report has been taken?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The case relating to import of bullocks is still under investigation by the Special Police Establishment. Necessary instructions have been issued by the Hirkud Control Board regarding enlistment of contractors.

HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LIMITED

*1158. **Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the programme of the Hindustan Shipyards Limited in regard to the construction of ships, that is to say, the number of ships with their tonnage for which the keels are laid?

(b) When does the Yard propose to lay the keels of the ships for which orders have been booked?

(c) What is the programme of expansion of the Yard and the construction of the ships at the Yard during the period of the Plan i.e., up to 1955-56?

(d) What is the extent of the loan which Government have given to Indian ship-owners for the purchase of ships built in the Yard, together with details of the amount of the loan given to each ship-owner?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). Three ships of an aggregate tonnage of 23,000 dead-weight tons for which keels have been laid by the Hindustan Shipyards Limited are under construction. Two are on the slipway and the third which was launched on 26th August is being fitted up at the fitting-out wharf. As regards the further ship-building programme of the yard, the attention of the Hon'ble Member is drawn to my reply to Starred Question No. 1060 in the House of the People on the 5th September 1953. So far as the programme of expansion of the Yard is concerned, this is still under the consideration of Government.

(d) Loans amounting to Rs. 1,10,23,333 were sanctioned to the following Indian Shipping Companies