

Shri N. M. Lingam : Only the other day the hon. Minister replying to a question in this House said that as many as 5000 people were idle hands in these factories. May I know why the full capacity of these plants is not being utilised so that not only production of civilian goods may be increased but employment could also be provided to the idle hands ?

Sardar Majithia : It is admitted that approximately 5000 people are not wanted by these ordnance factories. But that depends upon the work-load, and that goes on constantly changing with various demands made by the Defence Department. As I have already said, the utmost effort is being made to keep as many as we possibly can from those people who are not required, and the effort that the Ministry has put in for stepping up production of civilian goods as I have already said, has resulted in quite an appreciable amount of work being done.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan : Is it a fact that some of the articles that are producible in these factories are being imported ? If so, may we know whether Government are taking steps to stop imports of such articles and produce them in these factories at home ?

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju) : Nothing is imported which can possibly be manufactured here, in these ordnance factories. It does take time to produce the design and develop things. Otherwise, I may assure the House that we are doing our utmost to utilise the machinery in the ordnance factories to the utmost capacity possible.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : May I know if it is true that the cost of production of articles in these ordnance factories is much higher than the cost of production in other private factories.

Dr. Katju : It all depends. If you put the overhead charges on the cost of production then the cost will be higher; otherwise, it may be a little less. But what my hon. friend has pointed out is correct.

Shri N. M. Lingam : Can Government give an assurance that in respect of civilian articles which could be produced in these factories for which costly machinery has been installed no licences will be issued under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act to the private sector ?

Mr. Speaker : There are some things which are produced in these factories, and licences to private factories are also given in respect of the same things. He wants to know whether issue of such licences will be stopped.

Dr. Katju : I require notice.

The State Bank of India

*1407. **Shri L. N. Mishra :** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion of the Imperial Bank of India into the State Bank of India has affected the deposits and withdrawals in any way; and

(b) if so, in what respect ?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha) : (a) and (b). From the data available with Government, it can not be said that the conversion of the Imperial Bank of India into the State Bank of India has affected the deposits and withdrawals in any way. There have been some fluctuations which are accountable to seasonal and other reasons apart from conversion.

Shri L. N. Mishra : Have Government a similar experience with regard to the branches of the Imperial Bank abroad ?

Shri A. C. Guha : I think I stated before that the assets of the Imperial Bank branches abroad are being gradually transferred to the State Bank branches that have already started, so that will give no measure of the volume of business of the Imperial Bank or the State Bank. Some of the old business is still with the Imperial Bank; some has already been transferred to the State Bank.

Shri L. N. Mishra : Has the State Bank any particular plan to invest a part of its fixed deposits in purchasing loans floated by various State Governments for financing the Plan ?

Shri A. C. Guha : When the loans are floated, generally all the banks and insurance companies—what may be called finance institutions—subscribe to them. This may also be open to the State Bank.

Shri Kasliwal : May I know whether after the taking over of the Imperial Bank by the State Bank, the latter has opened any more branches? If so, in which part of the country ?

Shri A. C. Guha : Sometime back, I gave the figure; three branches were opened, one in Assam, one in Madhya Pradesh and one, I think, in Saurashtra.

National Atlas

*1409. **Shri B. C. Das :** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are preparing National Atlas;

(b) if so, how far its preparation has progressed; and

(c) the scope of the Atlas ?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The work for the preparation of the National Atlas has only recently been taken up and action is being initiated to set up an organisation for the purpose.

Shri B. C. Das : May I know whether any expert committee has been appointed for the purpose of preparing the atlas, and if so, who constitute the personnel of the committee?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall : I am afraid I do not have the names of the personnel of the committee. But an expert advisory board has been appointed by the Government and it is proposed to reconstitute the committee and the board in view of the suggestions which the board made last time.

Shri B. C. Das : What is the estimated cost of production of the atlas?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall : We have received a scheme prepared by Dr. Chatterjee of the Calcutta University, and the scheme envisages an expenditure of Rs 1.65 crores during the period 1956-60.

Shri Kamath : In view of the fact that this is the first National Atlas prepared after the advent of freedom, does Government propose to see that the cartographic encroachments of China on Indian territory are rectified in this Atlas and the Chinese Government also told that such encroachments be not made?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall : I may assure the hon. Member that the Expert Committee will give full consideration to this matter and make a scientific approach to the whole question.

Remittance Through Post Offices

*1410. **Shri Barman** : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether after devaluation of the Pakistan Rupee remittances upto a certain maximum limit are allowed through the post offices between India and Pakistan pending adjustment at the end of the year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question of resumption of money order remittances between the two countries on a reciprocal basis was taken up with the Government of Pakistan as early as 1951 but no agreement could be reached as Pakistan did not agree to the usual and internationally accepted procedure of routing money orders through offices of

exchange. Recently, however, they have explained that they have no system of money orders with foreign countries and they are not yet ready to introduce such a system between the two countries.

Shri Barman : Was this letter communication made after the devaluation of the Pakistan rupee or before that?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : The last communication was in June.

अन्तर्द्वीप संचार

*१४१३. श्री के० सी० सोधिया : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अन्तर्द्वीप सेवा के लिये जहाजों की व्यवस्था करने में अन्तर्द्वीप प्रशासन ने कहां तक प्रगति की है;

(ख) उस सेवा पर अनुमानित वार्षिक व्यय और उससे अनुमानित आय कितनी है; और

(ग) वहां की वर्तमान संचार व्यवस्था किस प्रकार की है ?

गृह-कार्य उपमंत्री (श्री दातार)

(क) से (ग). अन्तर्द्वीप यातायात के लिये एक जहाज प्राप्त करने का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है। यह अनुमान किया जाता है कि जहाज चलाने में १,५८,००० रुपये सालाना खर्च होगा, जब कि पहले साल में आमदनी कुल ४४,००० रुपये होगी। फिर भी, आशा की जाती है कि जैसे द्वीपों की उन्नति होगी आमदनी बढ़ जायगी। द्वितीय पंच वर्षीय योजना में अन्तर्द्वीप सेवा की अधिक उन्नति करने के प्रस्तावों की जांच की जा रही है।

Shri K. C. Sodhia : What is the present arrangement for inter-island communication?

Shri Datar : There are certain arrangements but they are more or less of an unsatisfactory character. That is the reason why the Government are going to purchase immediately a second-hand vessel at the cost of Rs. 5 lakhs