

(c) As the Section Officers' Grade in the Central Secretariat Service was decentralised with effect from 1st October, 1962, the required information is not available in this Ministry.

(d) and (e). Confirmation of an employee in a grade depends inter alia upon the availability of permanent vacancies the seniority of the officers and their suitability and is not related merely to the length of service rendered in the grade. The various cadre authorities have been requested to speed up the review of the authorised permanent strength in accordance with the prescribed procedure and to confirm temporary eligible officers against the authorised permanent strength.

12.37 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SHAH OF IRAN'S REPORTED OFFER TO INDIA OF TRANSIT ROUTES.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOWDHURY (Krishnagar) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a Statement thereon :

"The Shah of Iran's reported offer to India of two transit routes to Europe through Iran as an alternative to the closed Suez Canal and his reported statement criticising the Government of India in their dealings with Iran."

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : The possibilities of India utilising the overland routes through Iran for transhipment of Indian merchandise to destinations in Europe had been mentioned during the visit to India in January, 1969, of the Shahanshah of Iran. Government are examining the feasibility of the use of the overland route and have asked for further details from the Government of Iran.

Government of India have not heard from the Government of Iran even hinting at any criticism of the Government of India in this regard. Government have, however, seen press reports to that effect. Letters establishing a Joint Commission for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation between India and Iran were exchanged in

January, 1969, which envisaged that the first meeting of the Commission would be held in March, 1969. The Government of Iran suggested a postponement of this meeting. A meeting of officials in early May, 1969 to be followed by a meeting of Ministers is in the process of being finalized. At this meeting substantive decisions on the pattern, scope and extent of Cooperation in various economic, industrial and technical fields are expected to be taken. As no issues have been raised by either side requiring any decisions prior to this meeting of the Joint Commission, reports about delay or dissatisfaction are ill-founded.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOWDHURY :

In view of the fact that this transit route across Iran would be of great advantage to India because one would pass Iran to Turkey and the other would get to the Soviet Union, and in view of the Shah of Iran's reported statement that—

"We must have your Government's sanction soon. To meet such a big project we will have to electrify our railways system and that will take some time."

I want to know this from the Government. If this is of great advantage to India I would like to know as to how soon India is going to take the decision in this regard. This is number one.

Number two is this. When will the External Affairs Minister go to Iran to finalise various other projects with Iran ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The matter of utilising this transit route—the offer of which was received from the Shah of Iran—is receiving our active consideration and in fact, this matter has been considered and examined by a Sub-Committee set up under the Indo-Iran Joint Commission. We have insufficient information with us from and we have asked for some more information from Iran. As soon as we receive it we will take a decision in this matter. That will be decided before the Minister goes to Iran.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR (Sambalpur) : It creates a very embarrassing situation when the Head of a neighbourly and friendly State criticises us and our

Government in a way which gives an impression to the whole world that red-tapism is in operation in this country and we are neglecting the interests of our own country. May I know if the Government is taking any steps to see that such publicity is not given and what is the way of preventing publicity of such remarks by the people in high authority of the country which is friendly to our country ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : As the Hon. Member would have followed the statement made by my colleague, the Deputy Minister, we have not received from the Government of Iran any criticism in this matter and therefore, there has been no question of any publicity on our behalf. Something has appeared in the newspapers and I am inclined to agree with the Hon. Member that such an impression is unfortunate.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह (खगरिया) : बड़े खेद की बात है कि जो स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है उसमें बहुत सी गलत बातें कही गई हैं। चूंकि इसमें गलत बातें हैं इस वास्ते एकसटर्नल एफेयर्ज मिनिस्टर ने खुद इस स्टेटमेंट को न पढ़ कर डिप्टी मिनिस्टर को इसको पढ़ने के लिए कहा है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप देखें कि श्रीमती इला पाल चौधरी ने पूछा था कि ईरान के शाह ने क्या यह नहीं कहा था कि वी मस्ट हैव योअर गवर्नमेंट्स आंसर सून ? इसका इन्होंने कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया है।

एक तरफ तो शाह आफ ईरान का यह कहना है और दूसरी ओर ये कहते हैं कि रिपोर्ट्स एबाउट डिले आर डिससैटिसफैक्टरी और इल फाउंडिड। मैं डिससैटिसफैक्शन की बात नहीं करता हूं। लेकिन जहां तक डिले का ताल्लुक है शाह आफ ईरान हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार से जल्दी इस बात के ऊपर डिसिशन चाहते हैं। उसके मुताबिक इन्होंने जो यह कहा है कि रिपोर्ट्स एबाउट डिले आर इल फाउंडिड क्या यह गलत नहीं है ? अगर गलत बात है तो क्या यही वजह नहीं है कि इन्होंने

इस स्टेटमेंट को खुद न पढ़ कर डिप्टी मिनिस्टर को इसको पढ़ने के लिए दिया है ?

जवाब में यह भी कहा गया है कि सब कमेटी बनाई गई थी और उसने इस बात की जांच की है। क्या मन्त्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि उस सब कमेटी की सिफारिश क्या हैं ? क्या इस चीज को जल्दी फाइनलाइज नहीं किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि शाह आफ ईरान ने यह भी कहा है कि अगर हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार इस बात को तय करती है कि हमारा लैंड रूट इस्तेमाल किया जाए तो हमको अपनी रेलों को भी इसके उपयुक्त बनाना पड़ेगा और उसमें समय लगेगा और पैसा भी लगेगा ? शाह आफ ईरान की दिक्कों को भी ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सब कमेटी ने क्या सिफारिश की हैं और उस पर आपने क्या निर्णय लिया है ?

श्री बिनेश सिंह : माननीय सदस्य काफी दिन तक जब इस सदन में रह जाएंगे तो उनको पता चल जाएगा कि मन्त्री गलत स्टेटमेंट नहीं देते हैं।

जहां तक इनके सवाल का सम्बन्ध है इन्होंने पूछा है कि सब कमेटी ने क्या कहा है और इसमें हम देरी क्यों कर रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य अगर नवशा देखेंगे तो उनको मालूम होगा कि जो यह रास्ता बताया जा रहा है इस में हमारा सामान पशिशन गल्फ में जाएगा और वह ओवर लैंड जा कर कैस्पियन सी पर जाएगा। दो बार इस में ट्रांसशिपमेंट का सवाल उठेगा। उसका खर्चा होता है। ओवर लैंड रूट जो है उसका एक खर्चा और जुड़ता है। इस सबको हमको देखना है। इस सब खर्चों को जोड़ कर हमको देखना होगा कि यह सस्ता होगा या नहीं होगा। जब तक इन सब खर्चों को जोड़ न लिया जाए और हिसाब न लगा लिया जाए तब तक पता नहीं माननीय सदस्य हमसे क्या चाहते हैं ? क्या वह यह चाहते हैं कि मैं खड़ा होकर कह दूं कि सब सामान उधर से भेजा जाएगा ? माननीय सदस्य इसको भी देखें कि हमारे देश में तजारत जो है, उसमें लोगों को फ्रीडम मिली हुई है।

[श्री विनेश सिंह]

वे चाहे जिस जहाज से भेजें, जैसे भेजें। पहले तो यह तय करना होगा, इसका पता लगाना होगा कि यह रास्ता सस्ता है या नहीं है, तभी इस रास्ते को चालू किया जा सकेगा। जब तक हम जांच न कर लें तब तक किस तरह माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं कि हम इसको कर दें।

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : कमेटी की क्या सिफारिश थी, इसके बारे में कुछ नहीं बताया गया है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So far as I have been able to follow, he has answered.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : आप हमारी मदद नहीं करेंगे तो कौन करेगा ?

SHRI N. K. SOMANI (Nagaur) : One of the major projects hanging fire in respect of our relationship with Iran dates back to over a year ago, which was sought to be precipitated in the month of January this year when Shri JRD Tata nearly exploded at the meeting of the Advisory Council of Industries just before the arrival of Their Majesties the Shahanshah and Shahbanu. It was about early finalisation of the Mithapur fertiliser project. After that, most of the Cabinet Ministers, including the Prime Minister, had sought to delay a decision on the plea that this project has so many ramifications and is of so important a nature that all the aspects have got to be thoroughly examined before we can take a decision in the matter as to whether the Mithapur project should be in the public sector or the private sector. I would like to ask whether this policy of delaying a decision in the matter is a deliberate game of playing with the nerves of the existing promoters so that they give up the project and then automatically it could be appropriated to the public sector which is, in turn, causing such a great deal of delay as far as Iran is concerned.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : In his question the hon. member has brought in various things. I think it will be very much more useful if our industrialists stopped exploitation and started sharing their profits with the workers.

So far as the question of the Mithapur project is concerned, it is under Government's consideration.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : It will continue to be under consideration.

12.47 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**MERCHANT SHIPPING (FIRE APPLIANCES RULES.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Merchant Shipping (Fire Appliances) Rules, 1969, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 932 in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1969, under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, [Placed in Library See No. LT—880/69.]

MEMORANDA AGAINST BIRLA GROUP OF INDUSTRIES, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : I beg to lay on the Table, in pursuance of an assurance given by me on the 8th April, 1969, in answer to a supplementary on Starred Question No. 935, a copy each of the following papers :

1. Memoranda Nos. I to III submitted by Shri Chandra Shekhar, Member, Rajya Sabha, containing allegations against the Birla Group of Industries.
2. Appendices I to IX containing Government's findings on the allegations contained in the above Memoranda. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—881/69.]

HIGH COURT JUDGES TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE (AMENDMENT) RULES, ETC.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY : On behalf of Shri V. C. Shukla, I beg to lay on the Table—

1. A copy of the High Court Judges Travelling Allowance (Amendment) Rules, 1969, published in Notification No. G. S R. 891 in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1969, under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—882/69.]