

to matter
of Urgent Public
Importance

हृषि उपमंत्री (श्री मो० व० हृष्णप्पा) :

(क) स्थिति इस प्रकार रही है :—

चीनी वर्ष उत्पादन उपभोग
(नवम्बर-प्रस्तुवर)

(लाख (लाख
टन में) टन में)

१६५५-५६	१८.६२ १६.५१
१६५६-५७	२०.२६ १६.५६
१६५७-५८	१६.७८ २०.४२
१६५८-५९	१६.१६ २०.८०
१६५९-६०	२८.२२ २०.२१

(ख) पहली नवम्बर, १६६० को ५.८२
लाख टन।

(ग) ३१ मार्च, १६६१—१६.५७ लाख टन
३१ मार्च, १६६०—१४.१८ लाख टन

(घ) ५४,१८२ टन।

(इ) मई के अन्त तक जब तक कि अधिकारी कारखानों में पिराई बन्द हो जाएगी स्टाक २० लाख टन के लगभग होने की आशा है।

P. & T. Employees in Madras State

3217. Shri Elayaperumal: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in class III and class IV of Posts and Telegraphs Department in Madras State;

(b) the number of employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Madras State who were placed under suspension up to 31st July, 1960; and

(c) the number of employees dismissed from service upto 31st July, 1960?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is as under:

STATEMENT

The total number of P. & T. employees in Madras State is 15981 in Class III and 4284 in Class IV. During

the period 1/1/60 to 31/7/60, 864 Class III officials and 163 Class IV officials were placed under suspension. These figures include 837 Class III and 1857 Class IV offices who were suspended in connection with the strike of the Central Government employees. 61 Class II employees were dismissed in connection with the strike up to 31-7-60 of whom 55 were reinstated later. 7 Class IV officials were dismissed in the same connection, but all of them were reinstated subsequently.

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FIRE ON S.S. Dara

Shri Radha Raman (Chandni Chowk): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Transport and Communications to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported death of a number of Indian passengers and crew due to fire on S.S. Dara of B.I.S.N. Company in the Persian Gulf.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications

(Shri Raj Bahadur): Sir, the statement is two-page long. Shall I read it?

Some Hon. Members: It may be read.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, it is with deep regret that I rise to make a statement on the tragic sinking of M.V. "Dara" in the Persian Gulf on the 10th April. The ship caught fire on the 8th April and finally sank near Bahrein on the 10th April while it was under tow. The cause of the fire is not yet known.

The Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Bombay, received information about this tragedy in the

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

forenoon of Saturday, the 8th April. Immediate steps were taken to send out messages through the Bombay Radio addressed to all ships in the vicinity to proceed to the rescue of the survivors from "Dara". According to press reports, no life boat got clear of the blazing ship but four rescue vessels steamed in close to her to pick up survivors.

The vessel was a British ship registered in the U.K. She has been regularly surveyed and issued with Safety, Survey and Passenger Certificates from India. It was a passenger-cum-cargo vessel belonging to the British India Steam Navigation Company Limited and used to operate a regular service between Bombay and Basra touching the ports of Kuwait, Bahrain and Dubai. The passenger capacity of the vessel was first class 13, second 65 and deck 815 in foul season and 940 in fair season. She was built in June, 1948 and her gross registered tonnage was 5030.

The Indian agents of the owners of the ship are not in a position to indicate the exact number of passengers and others on board the vessel because a number of labourers and visitors were also present in the ship at the time of the accident. But the number of crew has been ascertained to be 132 out of which 71 were Indians. The total number of crew so far rescued is 102—since this statement was written this number has gone up to 108, but the number of Indians out of these six additional persons rescued is not yet known—and out of the 30 members still missing, 18 are Indians excluding the six rescued subsequently. The next of kin of the missing crew have been informed by telegrams.

It is understood from the agents of the vessel in Bombay that about 52 survivor passengers and crew would be arriving in Bombay by a special chartered plane today and that the same plane may also make a few more trips to bring more passengers and crew. A sister vessel M.V. "Aronda"

is bringing the remaining survivors to Bombay where it is expected to reach about the 18th instant. Arrangements have been made by the Company's agents for receiving the survivors and for providing the necessary facilities to them. The Company have also arranged to issue duplicate tickets to the survivors on the basis of which the Transport Authorities in Bombay will permit the survivors to land in Bombay. The Port Health Officer has agreed to relax the Health Certificate requirements as a special case in respect of the survivors. The crew of the ship will, on arrival, be received by the shipping Master and put up in the Seamen's Hostel. The passenger survivors will be accommodated in the rest house intended for 'Haj' pilgrims.

It is understood from the Indian agents of the owners that the crew will receive compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act as well as three months' pay under the Merchant Shipping Act for loss of personal effects and that the Company will also consider the question of additional *ex gratia* payments to the dependents of the missing seamen.

Since this accident took place outside the territorial waters of India and the ship does not belong to the Indian Register, the provisions of Section 358 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act are not applicable so that our Mercantile Marine Department is not competent to hold an enquiry into this disaster. The necessary enquiry in this accident has to be made by the Government of U.K. where the ship was registered. It is understood that a senior Surveyor of the U.K. Ministry of Transport is being flown to Bombay for the purpose of holding a preliminary enquiry as soon as the surviving passengers and crew arrive there. The U.K. Ministry of Transport may order a formal enquiry if the results of the preliminary enquiry so warrant.

Sir, it has been further learnt on telephone that the U.K. Ministry of

Bills and
Resolution

Transport have confirmed that they have ordered a formal enquiry and that they have sent already a senior engineer and a ship surveyor to Bahrein. The total passengers on board is now reported to be 580 traders hawkers, agents, staff etc. 60, crew 132 survivors 555 out of which 108 being crew and the missing so far are 197.

Shri Radha Raman: It is reported that after the ship caught fire the life boats that were there were not functioning and because they were not able to function the loss has been heavier.

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I have already stated here no life boat got clear of the blazing ship. That is what the hon. Member also has said. That is true, so far as our information goes.

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
NOTIFICATION UNDER THE ESSENTIAL
COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 464 dated the 1st April, 1961, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2826/61].

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE
MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESO-
LUTIONS

EIGHTY-SECOND REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Eighty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH AND
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST REPORTS

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee:—

- (i) Hundred and twenty-seventh Report on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Food) (a) Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati, and (b) National Sugar Institute, Kanpur.
- (ii) Hundred and thirty-first Report on the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture)—Central Mechanised Farm, Suratgarh.

12.08 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS*—contd.
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence. Shri D. C. Sharma may continue his speech.

Shri M. R. Masani (Ranchi-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Let Shri Sharma finish his speech. He is in possession of the House.

Shri M. R. Masani: This concerns something which happened yesterday and on which I seek your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: I got the hon. Member's letter. But Shri D. C. Sharma is in possession of the House. Let him conclude. After that I will see.

An Hon. Member: How much time is left, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Eight hours had been fixed for this.

An Hon. Member: Only four hours are left.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.