

tralisation envisage also giving greater powers to the local managements of the individual mines which are under the NCDC?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is precisely so.

Shri Venkatasubbaiya: May I know if Government proposes to bring the Singareni Collieries also under the purview of the NCDC?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. The idea of the Ministry is that the Singareni Collieries should also work in collaboration with the NCDC. What that pattern of collaboration or co-operation will be is still under consideration between the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Central Government.

Savings and Rising Prices

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*577. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
 { **Shri Basumatari:**
 { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
 { **Shri B. Barua:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India is probing into the effect on the saving capacity of the people due to rising prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, whether it has started its survey and when it is expected to complete the work?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) No Sir;

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Is it for the Reserve Bank to say that the income of the people or the saving power of the people has gone up? May I know whether Government propose to set up a special machinery to find out whether the saving power of the people has gone up or not?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: There is no need for the Government to set

up such a special machinery. As the hon. Member is aware, the Mahalanobis Committee is looking after the redistribution of the increased national income in the country.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The Minister stated that the Mahalanobis Committee has gone into this factor. May I know whether this survey is conducted in the interior villages or it has been conducted in the towns and cities?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The Mahalanobis Committee has been looking into the question of the increase of national and per capita income, and how it has been distributed. Now, the method they are following is the usual method that should be followed in order to come to any definite conclusion in regard to that, but, as the hon. Member is aware, there are so many difficulties in getting the appropriate data in regard to that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: As saving is dependent on prices of essential commodities, may I know whether any non-governmental agency has been taken into confidence to survey these things?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: It depends on where the prices rise in which field the price rises, because sometimes it happens that a decrease in personal savings bring about an increase in business savings or a decrease in business savings bring about an increase in personal savings. So, that is one of the aspects to be considered, but that is not the only aspect that governs the quantum of savings.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know if any effective attempt has been made to hold the price line at a reasonable price?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Government is always aware of this serious problem, and Government is taking all the steps to bring equilibrium or stability in the prices.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: Can any one with a very moderate income

save anything in these days of high prices?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: As I said in my original answer, the survey has not been made. It is very difficult to answer specifically about that.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: This question arises out of rising prices of essential commodities. Do I understand that the Government concedes that the prices of even essential commodities continue to rise at present, because in the Budget Speech the Finance Minister had clearly stated that their one achievement was the arrest of the prices. So, I want to know whether they concede that there is a rise in prices.

Mr. Speaker: He is entering into arguments now.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I am not. I want to know whether they concede that there is a rise in prices and that there is need to take any action.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: This question is relative, savings vis-a-vis rise in prices, and therefore the hon. Members question does not pertain to this specific question, but this is not a denial of the fact that Government is aware of the problem that there has been a rise in prices.

Coal Supply Position

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*578. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:

Will the Minister of **Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply position of coal beyond Moghal Sarai has improved;

(b) whether it is a fact that coal supply is still inadequate; and

(c) if so, steps taken by Government to move coal from the pitheads?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, as the demand has far exceeded the available supplies.

(c) The following are the main steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of coal to meet the increasing demands from all parts of the country in general and above Moghal Sarai in particular;

- (i) Increase in rail movement capacity from July, 1962 of additional 100 wagons per day in the "Above Moghal Sarai Area" from the Bengal|Eihaar coalfields;
- (ii) movement of coal in block rakes in heavier type of wagons;
- (iii) collieries are being urged to step up loading of coal wagons on Sundays and Holidays;
- (iv) plans have been drawn to develop the Singrauli coal-field, which will produce about 2.5 million tons under the Third Plan and all the coal will be for industries in the "Above Moghal Sarai direction";
- (v) plans are being drawn up for transporting some coal by river and road for short distances in North India from the West Bengal|Bihar coal-fields to certain districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether it is a fact that during the month of March, 1962, in U.P. only 50 per cent of the requirement was being supplied. If so, what steps are being taken to see that at least the quota is increased?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot say just now whether only 50 per cent of the quota allotted was supplied. But it is a fact that for the whole of the country, not only U.P. State, the quotas were related to the actual availability of rail wagons. Previously, it was not like that. Therefore, it appears that there has been some reduction. But, as I have just now mentioned, supply of coal has increased and we are taking other steps