

is unique to the West Bengal Government or is it done in consultation with my friend the Home Minister?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: There is no such instruction. I also read it in the papers the other day. But each and every case is considered on merits by the appointing authority. It is for the State Government or the Central Government to look into each case and then come to a decision. Mere association with a political party does not debar a person.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: They would appreciate that I cannot allow all the Members who desire to put supplementary questions because that will consume almost the whole of the time. If the hon. Members do feel that it ought to be further enquired into or there should be some discussion about it, they can seek other measures. But so far as Question Hour is concerned there should be a limit to the time that can be given to one question. Shri Kamath.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What exactly is the connotation of the phrase 'association with a political party'? What are the particular types of activity frowned upon? Is the Congress Party also included in the words a 'political party'?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: No Government servant can remain a member of the Congress or any other political party.... (*Interruptions*).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They can.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: If any specific case is brought to my notice, we will take necessary action. But no Government servant has got that right.

Shri Mohammed Elias: I want to put a very simple question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

Shri Bade: I have been standing up.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry if I have not been able to call him. I have called the next question.

Defence Electronics Research Laboratory

***311. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state what would be the nature of scientific explorations and research undertaken in the recently established Defence Electronics Research Laboratory at Chandrayanguta?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): This Laboratory is for applied research in electronics and for developing new techniques in design and development of defence electronic equipments mainly in such subjects as the microwave techniques, propagation, tropicalisation, communication and navigation, computers, materials, components etc.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: By what time is the laboratory expected to start functioning?

Shri Raghuramaiah: It has already started functioning.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether there is a proposal to have a chain of other laboratories in the vicinity of this place to do research in different subjects?

Shri Raghuramaiah: We have already three electronic establishments: one at Bangalore, one here and the other at Delhi.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What has been the cost of setting up this laboratory? How much is set apart for doing research here?

Shri Raghuramaiah: I have not got the exact figures involved in this.

Movement of Inferior Grade of Coal

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***312. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Oza:**

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of the President of the Indian Colliery Owners' Association that "superior grades of coal were being exhausted due to lack of transport for movement of inferior grade"; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter to ensure proper movement of the inferior grade coal?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). Yes, but this statement does not reflect the correct position because there is hardly any connection between lack of movement of inferior grades and exhaustion of superior grades. The exhaustion of superior grades of coal may really be due to a mine itself getting worked out with the passage of time.

Government are, however, seriously considering how transport for movement of inferior grades can be stepped up according to the requirements of the consumer. Although it is difficult to say anything as yet, the Government would not hesitate to revise the present concept of priorities if considered feasible and purposeful.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What was the requirement of the coal industry for wagons per day in 1961-62 and how much did the actual supply fall short of the demand?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The hon. Member wants the requirement for the whole country?

Shri P. C. Borooah: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I will require notice for that.

Shri Oza: Is it true that we are left with more inferior grade than superior grade and if so, what is the proportion between them?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: In some industries, the superior grade coal is needed more than the inferior grade. But it is not correct to say, as I have said before, that because of the lack

of transport facilities lower grade coal is accumulating in larger quantities. The exhaustion of superior grade coal will be there so long as we shall require to exploit this superior grade coal.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether, as a result of the consumption of superior grade coal in the absence of the inferior grade coal, the industries requiring superior grade coal are suffering and, if so, to what extent?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The industries are undoubtedly facing some difficulties in getting coal, whether superior or inferior, because of certain imbalances and the industries expanding fast. Transport facilities and also production are not yet geared up to the needs. But, as I have said, a few weeks later perhaps we shall be able to improve the situation substantially and we shall let the House know as to how we propose to meet the situation.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article written by a member of the Railway Board in the Statesman to the effect that no coal is moved by way of inland water transport and, if so, whether that is also one of the obstacles in the way of transport facilities for getting more coal to the industries?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not read any statement which has been referred to by the hon. Member.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news published today in the issue of *Hindustan Times* that 30,000 workers who were employed in Meerut district in various brick kilns are being discharged because of the non-availability of coal and, if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to supply enough coal to the brick kilns there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not read that news item nor am I aware that 30,000 workers are being dis-

charged. But, as I said, Government are taking every step to see that "low priority grade" coal as it is called in the brick kilns which burn coal, is also supplied to the consumers as far as possible.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that only 50 miles from Jammu, at a place called Jungle Valley, there are huge deposits of inferior grade coal which, if transport facilities are provided and properly exploited, could supply almost the entire portion of northern India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I know that coal mines exist in the Jungle Gully, and that the Government have started taking steps to exploit them, but the question of arranging transport from the Jungle Valley to all the northern parts of India is a difficult one. But the Government are considering the question of transport of coal from that place if it is feasible proposition.

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that for want of the coal washeries which are yet to come into production, inferior quality coal is not being washed and that superior quality coal is being used instead?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are to be more coal washeries no doubt, and Government are expediting the programme of putting up coal washeries more and more. But, as I said, directly the consumption of superior grade coal cannot be related to the lack of transport of inferior grade coal.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the States have complied with the suggestion of the Union Government that they should build up depots for the supply of box wagon coal?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The box wagon supply is being speeded up and there is no lack of co-operation from the State Governments in this respect.

There are some technical difficulties which are being removed.

Shri Hem Barua: That is not my question. My question was different.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

Bangalore Airport

*313. **Shri Basappa:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Bangalore Airport needs renovation and expansion;

(b) whether airport buildings have been transferred from Defence department to the Transport and Communications Ministry; and

(c) if not, whether the Transport and Communications Ministry has corresponded with the Defence Ministry for the transfer of the airport building etc.?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah):

(a) Yes Sir; the renovation and expansion of the runway has already been completed.

(b) The Airport buildings are owned by Hindustan Aircraft Limited, and have not been transferred to the Transport and Communications Ministry.

(c) No, Sir. However, the question of leasing some land to the Ministry of Transport and Communications for the construction of terminal buildings at the Airport, is being examined by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited.

Shri Basappa: Am I to understand that the operation of this airport will be done by the Transport Ministry whereas the ownership is with the Defence Ministry and this anomaly has resulted in the neglect of the airport?

Shri Raghuramaiah: The overall control has been and will remain with the Hall. They have done the necessary renovations.