

he has again publicly said that there would be no discrimination against Indian as such, or the people on Indian origin.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, on a point of order. The hon. State Minister said that the High Commissioner could not take up these questions with the Government, with the Head of the Government or whatever it is. If he could not take up these questions with the Head of the Government or with the Government of that country, what is the High Commissioner meant for? What are the duties of the High Commissioner?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I did not say that this could not be taken up with the Head of the Government. The whole difficulty arises because hon. Members do not listen to what we say. I had said very clearly that it was not customary to have correspondence with the Head of the State on these matters; I maintain that.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Metal Corporation of India, Limited

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**S.N.Q. 19. Shrimati Savitri Nigam :
Shri Sinhasan Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metal Corporation of India (Acquisition of Undertaking) Act, 1955 (Act No. 44 of 1965), has been declared null and void in the Circuit Bench of the Punjab High Court, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that since the day this Corporation has been acquired, the production of zinc and other raw materials has been totally stopped; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Yes, Sir. But an Appeal has been preferred before the Supreme Court against the orders of the Punjab High Court.

(b) No, Sir. The production of Lead, Metal and Zinc Concentrates has been continuing.

(c) Does not arise.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the economic sub-committee of the Cabinet was appointed to consider this matter, to nationalise the Metal Corporation and if it rejected the very idea of enacting legislation for acquiring or nationalising one single organisation? If the answer is in the affirmative, under what special circumstances was this nationalised at the time when all the members of the economic sub-committee of the Cabinet were out of station?

Shri S. K. Dey: I do not know, this is news to me that it was rejected by the sub-committee. Obviously no nationalisation could have taken place without the full approval of the Cabinet and it was done that way. We had also a Bill before Parliament which was enacted into law.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether this Bill had been declared null and void in the High Court and now an appeal is pending in the Supreme Court, whether all the production of zinc which was being produced by the sending zinc ore to Japan had been stopped altogether and whether at the time it was nationalised negotiation were going on with this organisation and Mr. Dharma Vira was entrusted with the job of finding out an amicable solution?

Shri S. K. Dey: I do not exactly know what Mr. Dharma Vira was negotiating with the firm about but I know this that the Government intended to pay compensation which was approved by this Parliament and incorporated into legislation. Punjab High Court has declared that legislation null and void on the ground that the quantum of compensation was not adequate. Therefore we preferred an appeal to the Supreme Court.

About the second part of the question we have not stopped the production of metal ores. In fact, the production of ores both for zinc and lead continues.

There was a slight reduction in the tempo of production immediately after the Corporation was taken over. That was quite inevitable because one administration changes to another administration, but everything is being set right now.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam : My question....

Mr. Speaker: After a long question a long answer was given; I am not going to give her another opportunity.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: My question has not been replied to. I have asked whether the zinc which we were getting out of the zinc ore from Japan is being smelted or not and whether no loss is incurred by us....

Mr. Speaker: She has combined four questions in one and I cannot allow that. (*Interruption*) Order, order. Shri Sinhasan Singh.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether the said act has been declared null and void merely on account of compensation, and if it is held so by the Supreme Court also, may I know whether the Government intends to bring in a amendment to the Constitution to bring into line all the measures concerned with land wherein it has been provided that compensation cannot be challenged by any court ?

Shri S. K. Dey: The question of changing the Constitution does not arise at all because I do not believe that the Constitution is quite seriously involved in this matter. But if the Supreme Court gives a verdict against us, then we will consider what is the next step to be taken. We should not prejudge it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the Metal Corporation of India itself offered its assets to be taken over by the Government and, if so, why was it refused ?

Shri S. K. Dey: I have no knowledge of it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I want to put a question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tribal Programme

*726. **Shri Subodh Hansda :**
Shri S. C. Samanta :
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :
Shri M. L. Dwivedi :

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tribal Programme is broadcast from all stations in all the tribal dialects;

(b) if so, the duration of such programme;

(c) the kind of programme which is broadcast in these dialects; and

(d) whether Tribal leaders have any participation in these programmes ?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri Raj Bahadur):

(a) No, Sir. Programmes for Adivasis are broadcast regularly from nine stations of All India Radio *viz.*, Gauhati, Pasighat, Calcutta, Kohima, Ranchi, Bangalore, Simla, Cuttack and Imphal in the main dialects current in the respective regions.

(b) The duration of these programmes varies from station to station according to local conditions and requirements and the time available for such programmes.

(c) The programmes include music, informative talks, news, features, plays, interviews etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Subsidy for Newsprint Supplies

*727. **Shri P. C. Borooh :**
Dr. M. L. Singhvi :
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan :
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav :
Shri D. D. Mantri :

Will the Minister of **Information**