

did not stand up. I have passed on to the next question.

Shri Raghunath Singh: We wanted to ask supplementaries after the hon. Member has been given his chance.

Mr. Speaker: When the hon. Member put his question, the answer was given. Then supplementaries could be asked either by the same hon. Member or others. When nobody stood up in the whole House what could I have done under the circumstances except passing on to the next question?

Water Supply to Coal-Fields

*460. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
 { **Shri P. Kunhan:**

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to augment the water supply in various coal-fields;

(b) the amount likely to be spent for this during the current year; and

(c) the impediments in the way of speedy execution of the plans already submitted?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) The State Governments have been requested to set up statutory Water Boards in the coal mining areas and to give priority to the coal mining areas in formulating Water Supply Schemes. The colliery owners have also been requested to prepare suitable water supply schemes pertaining to their respective coalfields and to approach the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund for financial assistance.

(b) About Rs. 15 lakhs from the Welfare Fund.

(c) Lack of adequate technical details in the plans. This gives rise to prolonged correspondence with the State Governments and the colliery owners.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether any concrete steps other than this will be taken for assuring adequate supply of water to the coal-fields?

Shri Hathi: We have requested the State Governments to form statutory boards. The collieries have been asked to frame schemes. They have sent nearly 30 schemes. We shall examine the subject further.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if any of the Governments in whose areas the coalfields are situated have as yet set up these statutory bodies? May I also know how many of the schemes submitted by the colliery owners have been actually enquired into and vetted?

Shri Hathi: There is a long list of about 30 schemes. If the hon. Member so desires, I can supply her details of all the schemes later on. The West Bengal Government have agreed to form a statutory water board. In Jharia, of course, there is already a board.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: As we find that the present water supply to the colliery areas is absolutely inadequate, may I know whether some temporary measures will be taken to supply water until the whole scheme is finalised?

Shri Hathi: In some areas wells have been sunk, as it could be done immediately. In other areas the scheme is bound to take time.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: If the present water boards cannot supply adequate quantity of water for want of funds, may I know whether any financial assistance will be given to them by the Centre?

Shri Hathi: Financial assistance by way of loan and subsidy is being given from the welfare fund.

Dr. K. L. Rao: In view of the fact that the present water supply schemes are insufficient, may I know whether the coal mine owners have requested the Irrigation and P.W.D. depart-

ments to prepare comprehensive schemes after investigation for the supply of adequate water to the colliery areas?

Shri Hathi: The coal mines have been asked to approach the State Governments with their schemes. Those schemes are vetted by the State Governments. Bigger schemes are vetted by the Central Ministry of Health.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the State Governments and the colliery owners will have to share the expenditure?

Shri Hathi: Generally, it is the responsibility of the State Government and the coal mine owners. But we also give assistance from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. So, it is being shared by the three—mainly by the mine owners in the mining area, then the State Government and then the Centre.

Shri K. N. Pande: Even for the quarters which have been constructed by the Central Government, is the responsibility of supplying water that of the State Government?

Shri Hathi: The question is not about supplying water to the quarters. The question is about the water supply schemes in the coal area. Once the water supply scheme is there, naturally the water would be supplied to the labourers. The question is one of shortage of water supply schemes in the area as a whole.

Shri Daji: May I know how many State Governments have not yet responded to the scheme and what steps the Central Government propose to take in those States where the State Government has not responded?

Shri Hathi: As I said, the various State Governments have prepared schemes for water supply. Some are prepared by them, some by the colliery owners.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether there is any provision to compel a colliery owner if he does not take up this thing?

Shri Hathi: Primarily, for water supply schemes in the coal area, the responsibility is that of the State Government. But to supply water to the labourers while on duty, it is the responsibility of the mine-owners. But we have given them assistance, so that both the State Governments and the mine-owners would combine together in formulating schemes, and the Central Government would give a subsidy or some loan.

Newsprint for Newspapers

*461. **Shri Basappa:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the distribution of newsprint to various newspapers needs improvement; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken to remove the hardships caused to certain newspapers?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Arrangements for distribution of newsprint to various newspapers are made after taking into account availability of indigenous newsprint, imports which can be effected under special rupee payment arrangements and imports against free foreign exchange allocated for newsprint. Some difficulties were experienced by smaller newspapers in obtaining the newsprint from stockists in the country. With a view to remove these hardships, it has been decided in consultation with the representatives of the newspaper industry to grant them licences directly, which they could at their option utilize through the stockists.

Sir, in this connection I may draw the attention of the House to a public notice published in the Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1962.

डा० गान्धिव दास : क्या यह बात सही है कि श्रद्धाचार्यों को जो पर्याप्त कागज नहीं मिल रहा है उसका कारण यह भी है कि