

(c) the reason for the delay;

(d) whether INTUC and AITUC have demanded abolition of contract system and improvement of working conditions prevailing in these mines; and

(e) the progress in the proposal to hold a tripartite enquiry into the manganese industry?

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda):

(a) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is applicable to the mining establishments to a very limited extent, its coverage being confined for the present to mica mines and stone quarries only. As such, the Act is not applicable to other mining establishments.

(b) Although no such promise was made, it was agreed at the meeting held in April 1961 that work should be completed expeditiously.

(c) This question required careful examination of various data.

(d) Yes.

(e) The subject is expected to be discussed at the next meeting of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal.

Micanite Factory in Andhra Pradesh

***1121. Shri Yallamanda Reddy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a Micanite factory in the Mica Mining area of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, when it will start functioning?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) There is no such proposal before us, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited

***1127. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of work undertaken by the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited since its inception; and

(b) how far it has been able to take the responsibilities of Government work in case where the tenders have not been forthcoming or have been unreasonably high?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):

(a) Since its inception in November, 1960, the Corporation has undertaken works of the value of Rs. 820.41 lakhs.

(b) At Imphal and Pondicherry, the Corporation came in when the Central Public Works Department were finding it difficult to get contractors to execute their works. At other places the Corporation got the contracts either by virtue of their's being the lowest tender or by accepting a negotiated rate which was acceptable as reasonable by the agencies awarding the works.

Southern Rhodesia

***1133. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has pressed for U.N. debate on the question of granting independence to Southern Rhodesia; and

(b) if so, how many countries are expected to support or have supported India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). During the discussions on Southern Rhodesia in the Special Committee of 17, the Indian Delegate proposed that the Committee suggest to the General Assembly to consider the question as urgently as