

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) Global tenders for technical collaboration to set up the steel foundry were called for and were opened on 17-7-1957. They are now under examination.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I enquire from which foreign countries we have received tenders?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: As I said, the tenders were opened only on the 17th. I have been trying to get the information, but so far I have not been able to get it.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know what percentage of the requirements of Chittaranjan locomotives will be met by the proposed steel foundry?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: I hope 100 per cent.

Welfare of Landless Workers

*292. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) the elements in the community development plan and programme which directly contribute towards the well being and welfare of landless labourers and other poor people;

(b) the steps taken to provide better medical aid to the poor people, especially the landless labourers; and

(c) the steps taken to ascertain what part of the money spent in community development goes to which strata of society?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Village Industries, Reclamation, Intensive cultivation, Buildings and Road programmes, Health, Adult Literacy and community centres.

(b) Medical facilities established in N.E.S. and Community Development areas are open to all regardless of caste, creed or class to which a person belongs.

(c) It is not possible to assess the amount going to each stratum of society separately.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the recommendation given in para 16 of the Evaluation Report that there is wide disparity in the distribution of achievements and benefits of community projects and if so, what are the steps taken to remove this wide disparity in the benefits that are derived by the various sectors of society?

Shri S. K. Dey: Disparities are inevitable to a certain point in any society. Every effort is being made to see that the under-privileged classes of our society get special amenities.

Shri Raghunir Sahal: Is it not a fact that the Plan has been drawn up for the good of the entire community as a whole and allocations are not made class-wise? But special consideration is being shown to the interests of Harijans and other poorer sections of the community.

Shri S. K. Dey: Village industries programmes, of literacy, community centres and such other items are intended primarily to benefit the Harijans and the landless labour in the villages. The same also holds good in the case of intensive cultivation, which immediately results in increased employment to the under-employed and the landless people in the villages.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: The hon. Minister said, one of the items is cottage industries. May I know whether his attention has been drawn to this report that so far no progress has been made in the direction of starting cottage industries in the various community project areas and N.E.S. blocks?

Shri S. K. Dey: I plead it is most difficult, specially because in the case of industries, marketing presents the

most difficult problem. Yet, a beginning has already been made and we hope in a short period, we shall be able to show certain accomplishments.

Shri M. R. Krishna: It is said that these facilities have been given with a view to help the Harijans and other backward classes in the country. May I know whether any of these medical units or community centres have been constructed in the Harijan villages in the country?

Shri S. K. Dey: We do not wish to perpetuate the distinction between Harijans and non-Harijans.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I protest against the statement of the hon. Minister. We do not want perpetuation of untouchability, we only want the removal of untouchability. For that these centres must be located in the Harijan *cheris*. That is the way to approach the problem. We do not want perpetuation of untouchability. Excuse me, Sir, for talking like this.

Shri S. K. Dey: These amenities are always established where they are needed most.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Minister had an opportunity to establish them in a few Harijan *cheris*?

Shri S. K. Dey: These are being done; I said no distinction is made.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister will look into it.

Shri S. K. Dey: I will

Shri Thammiah: In the community development areas, the rules for granting loans are so strict that the landless Harijan who has nothing cannot get the loan. Has Government taken any steps to see that the benefit of this loan reaches the person who has nothing and not the person who has something?

Shri S. K. Dey: We are trying to devise measures by which we can offer credit for credit-worthy purposes

rather than for credit-worthy people alone.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: What I must say is this. Every session, I am prepared to allow two or three hours for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Just somebody puts a question and the hon. Members take it up. They themselves do not put questions and do not ask for a debate or discussion of matters relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I have absolutely no objection to allow them two or three hours every session for a discussion on this matter.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Even if the *Commissioner's* report is discussed, that is quite enough.

Shri B. S. Murthy: If we put questions on this matter, people think that we want to perpetuate untouchability here. So, most of us are refraining from putting questions about Scheduled Castes.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether, in areas where the percentage of literacy is the highest, the Government would consider diversion of funds allocated for adult education for providing more facilities to them?

Shri S. K. Dey: I could not get the whole question.

Mr. Speaker: The whole question is being considered.

New Railway Zone

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 *233 { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh
 Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Hishwanath Roy:
 Shri F. C. Bose:
 Shri Bup Narain:
 Shri H. N. Mukherjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create an eighth zone of