

(ब) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार का इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही करने का बिचार है ?

बाहिरिय मंत्री श्री कानूनगो) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) से (घ). प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

Diplomatic Services

*944. { Shri Parulekar:
Shri S. V. Ramaswami:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.C.S. Officers in India's diplomatic services; and

(b) the number at present serving in European countries and the number serving in East Asian, South Asian and West Asian countries?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) 30.

(b) (i) In European countries 3
(ii) In South, East & West Asian countries 13

Indian Rare Earths Employees' Association

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*945. { Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri Warrior:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1292 on the 5th September, 1957 and state whether any decision has been taken on the demands submitted by the Indian Rare Earths Employees' Association?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): The matter is still before the Conciliation Officer (Central) Cochin.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: In view of the fact that the dispute has been pending before the Conciliation Officer for the last one year, will the

Government be pleased to take steps to see that the dispute is settled at least now?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The Government are always taking adequate steps to see that these things are expedited.

State Trading Corporation (Private) Limited

*946. Shri N. E. Munsamy: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation sold sizable quantities of manganese ore to foreign countries at approximately \$49 per ton around August 1956 when the markets in this product were particularly firm and indicated higher rates; and

(b) whether the State Trading Corporation failed to cover itself for stocks against commitments?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The Corporation sold in August 1956 sizable quantities of different grades of manganese ore to foreign countries at prices varying from 55 dollars to 29 dollars per ton. The sale price was determined on the basis of price levels and trends in overseas markets, the variation from package to package depending on the grade of ore and period of delivery.

(b) The State Trading Corporation have followed the normal business practice in regard to covering itself with stocks against commitments.

Shri N. E. Munsamy: As on the date of entering into the contract for the supply of manganese ore to foreign markets, may I know the market rate prevailing?

Shri Kanungo: For which grade? There are different grades. It all depends. In August the price varied from 55 to 29 Dollars.

Shri N. E. Munsamy: The grade for which the contract was entered into.

Shri Kanungo: There are various grades.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: The rates can be given for all the grades.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It should not grow into a conversation. He may put his question.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: As on the date of entering into contract with the foreign countries for the supply of manganese ore, may I know the rates prevailing in India as compared to the rates at which the contracts were entered into with the other countries?

Shri Kanungo: I am very reluctant to give information about a particular contract, but about the price ranges of particular commodities I can give, and I have said that the price range was from 29 to 55 dollars.

Shri Mahanty: What was the price ruling in the Indian market so far as high grade manganese and low grade manganese were concerned, and at what prices were the contracts entered into?

Shri Kanungo: The ruling prices in the month of July ranged between Rs. 120 and Rs. 430.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know the total loss incurred therein? He is unwilling.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is this complaint that the answer is not clear and audible. It may be answered more distinctly.

Shri Kanungo: There was no loss in the transaction on manganese ore on the whole.

Shri Mahanty: I wanted to know what was the price ruling in the Indian market so far as high grade manganese ore and low grade manganese ore were concerned, and for what prices the State Trading Corporation entered into the contract with the foreign firms?

Shri Kanungo: I have given the prices; they ranged between Rs. 430 to Rs. 120 per ton; and the prices during the period the contracts were entered into ranged between 55 and 29 dollars, working out at Rs. 4.53 per dollar.

Shri Hoda: May I know how many times it happened that the State Trading Corporation sold their commodities in foreign countries and then tried to purchase the commodity in the Indian markets and they were not able to get it, and thus a bottleneck was created in deliveries?

Shri Kanungo: One part of the question is not correct, because we have covered ourselves for the supply. The difficulty was in moving the stocks to the ports.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know whether the reluctance to give answers is due to the laxity of the administration or lack of business experience?

Shri Kanungo: I have given the answers, but I submit that I am not prepared to give answers relating to specific contracts.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that in a majority of the categories that were sold under this series of transactions the ruling price in India left probably no margin, or even a loss on the contracts entered into for foreign exports?

Shri Kanungo: No, it did not leave a loss margin; it was a fairly good margin on the whole.

Shrimati Reauka Ray: May I know how many persons who had any business experience of handling this type of work are employed in this Corporation? Among those who go in for these contracts, how many have had any previous experience of handling such contracts?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would it be possible for the hon. Minister to answer that?

Shri Kanungo: It will not be possible to answer it.

Shri Bimal Ghose: The hon. Minister stated that the Government suffered no loss in respect of any contract. Is it a fact that in their annual report recently submitted, the State Trading Corporation stated that in certain transactions losses were suffered?

Shri Kanungo: I said that on the whole in the manganese business there was no loss.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nath Pal: We were standing for a long time, some of us.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very sorry. I will be more careful in future.

Coalfield at Patherdite, Jharia

*947. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints against the method of appointing Officers and creche trainees in the Welfare Section of Coalfield at Patherdite, Jharia, have been received;

(b) whether there are a large number of unemployed trained creche nurses;

(c) if so, the number thereof; and

(d) the reasons thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) No.

(b) and (c). About 116.

(d) Mainly because the trained creche nurses desire to secure jobs nearer their homes which are not always available.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know the method by which examinations are carried out in the matter of recruiting officers and other creche trainees in the welfare section up till now?

Shri L. N. Mishra: As a matter of fact, appointments are made by the management of the coal mines, and they get the candidates from the Employment Exchange and important women's organisations of the country.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Is it a fact that there is the Coal Mines Welfare organisation, and may I know whether the appointment of the officers for this is not done by them?

Shri L. N. Mishra: So far as the nurses are concerned, the appointments are made by the management, and so far as the officers of the training institute are concerned, that is made by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Has the Government received no complaint as to certain very gross irregularities which have taken place in the appointment of certain high officers?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We have received no such complaint so far.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know all the nurses who have been unemployed now have been offered jobs and they have all refused because the place of appointment was far from their homes?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is a fact that it is not possible to give them employment near their homes. They have to move to the mines. So far 242 have been employed and only 116 have been left out; even out of them some have been employed. Others have not been employed because they have chosen to remain unemployed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Is there any method by which the women from the local areas of the mines can be recruited for this training, and in doing so, is there any possibility of lowering the standards required for this training?

Shri L. N. Mishra: This is a suggestion. I shall try to forward the suggestion to the officers concerned.