

the doubling of the capacity of the Coke-Oven Plant in Durgapore; and

(b) if so, whether sanction has been accorded to the proposal?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. It was considered that the best manner in which additional capacity for hard coke should be created must be gone into by a Committee. Accordingly a Committee is being appointed for this purpose by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Is it a fact that this question was examined and it was found that unless the plant was doubled, it would not be economical?

Shri S. N. Mishra: That is the point made by the West Bengal Government that the cost of production can be reduced by 30 per cent. by doubling the plant. But all these things will have to be gone into by the committee although this would not be a direct point of reference, so far as I can see.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Do I understand that if the committee comes to a decision that that is so the question of foreign exchange will not be put forward as a plea not to sanction this?

Shri S. N. Mishra: In fact, the West Bengal Government themselves thought that the question of foreign exchange would not prove to be very difficult because by deferred payment the whole thing could be spread over a number of years.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Do I understand that this question was not examined at all as to whether it will be economic or uneconomic on the present capacity?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): There was further difference of opinion regarding the need for the additional production in the present conditions of demand. That matter has to be gone into first, as to where, if there is any addition, it is going to be consumed. Therefore, the location of any increased capacity also is a matter for consideration.

Migrants from Goa

*2949. **Shri Assar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many families from Goa who have migrated to Indian territory are residing in the District of Ratnagiri and Karwar;

(b) if so, their number;

(c) whether it is a fact that many families have not received any help from the Central Government and are in critical position; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). There are three displaced families from Goa residing in Ratnagiri and ten displaced persons in Karwar.

(c) and (d). Government have received applications for financial assistance from two displaced persons residing in the District of Ratnagiri and another from a person now living in Hyderabad. These are under consideration.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know the dates of the applications received, and the action taken up till now?

Mr. Speaker: Dates? There may be a number of applications.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know when the applications were received, two months before or four months before or six months before?

Mr. Speaker: I would have myself advised notice. How can the Minister remember the dates of all these applications?

An Hon. Member: There were only two applications.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I say a word? Possibly, the suggestion is that an application

was received before the previous answer was given, and, therefore, that answer was not a correct one—possibly; I do not know. If that is the inference or allegation, may I assure the House that that application was not received before, but it was received afterwards, that is, after the answer?

Radio-active Waste

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*2050. { Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U. L. Patil:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of dumping radio-active waste in the sea has been considered by the International Atomic Energy Agency:

(b) if so, what are the conclusions arrived at; and

(c) what contribution has been made by India towards the solution of this problem?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The method of dumping radioactive wastes in the sea is only one way of disposing of such wastes and is a part of the wider issue of waste disposal in general. The subject of waste disposal is included among the health and safety activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency. There have been some very preliminary discussions on the subject at meetings of the Board of Governors of the Agency, but no conclusions have been arrived at.

(c) The general question of safe disposal of radioactive wastes is under the active consideration of a committee appointed by the Director of the Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the attention of the Prime Minister has been drawn to a recent note by the USSR on this subject, complaining against this disposal

of radio-active waste? The statement made by the Prime Minister in that this problem does not baffle us at all. May I know what the correct position is? While speaking on the Demands for Grants, he stated that we had no problem whatsoever, and that the discharge in the ocean was absolutely safe, and there was less of radio-activity in it than in the ordinary water. May I know what the correct position is, and how the two things reconcile?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: My answer previously related to what we were doing at Trombay, and we gave the assurance that that involved no danger to anybody at all. I was not making that statement in regard to everything that was happening in the wide world, as to how other countries were disposing of it. Obviously, I neither know fully, nor can I give an assurance.

The hon. Member referred to the U.S.S.R. protesting against something. I can say nothing about it, as I do not know all the facts.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: May I know whether the Prime Minister will be pleased to see to it that our students taking training in atomic energy in different parts of the world are given full details as to how we are dealing with this problem in India, because they are very much puzzled when people ask them about it and they do not know the answer?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am surprised to hear that, because the students who have been sent abroad are students who almost always have worked in these establishments at Trombay. So, it is not a question of their being told. They know from personal experience. There might be a special case of a person who has not worked there. If the lady Member could draw my attention to any particular fact in her knowledge, I shall enquire.

Shri Kasliwal: The Prime Minister will recall that a few months back,