

date of acceptance of the offer. If this deal is accepted this will bring approximately Rs. 10 lakhs as profit at your purchase price."

Shri Kasliwal: In reply to Shri Morarka, the hon. Deputy Minister has stated that certain conditions which have been imposed by the brokers were not accepted by the Corporation. May I know whether this firm of brokers have also offered any price for the purchase of these shares and if so, whether the price offered was less or more than that which had been paid by the Corporation?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I have no information on that point.

Shri Joachim Alva: It is stated that Damodar Chowbay & Company offered to buy 1,90,000 ordinary shares of Jessop and Company Ltd, and that the names of parties on whose behalf the offers were made were not known. May I know whether the Government is taking care to see that the parties are not foreign buyers and whether the Government is examining the position of getting the firm within its own ambit because Government itself places large orders with this firm?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The offer was made by some brokers. It has not been accepted by the LIC. I do not know what enquiry Government has got to make about it now. May I point out that Mr. Mundhra's offer was a package offer of taking back all these shares for a certain sum of money which was a little more than what he has been paid. These brokers have offered to buy certain shares, not the whole lot, in Jessops only. It is rather difficult to compare the two.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement there are only two offers: one from Damodar Chowbay & Company and the other from Shri Haridas Mundhra. May I know whether there are any other offers to buy either Richardson and Cruddas shares or Jessops shares or any other shares of the Mundhra group concerns?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not that we are aware of.

Shri B. E. Bhagat: The offer by Messrs. Damodar Chowbay and Company is with regard to Richardson and Cruddas also. There are two offers one for buying 1,70,000 shares of the Richardson and Cruddas and the other is for the purchase of 1,90,000 shares of the Jessops.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. I am glad my colleague has drawn my attention to this. There are two separate letters from Messrs. Damodar Chowbay and Company: one in regard to Jessops and the other in regard to Richardson and Curddas.

Shri Tangamani: Is there any other offer?

Mr. Speaker: All the offers have been set out in the statement.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We do not know. I would not like to say yes or no because I really do not know. It is for the LIC and it might have got offers or not.

Shri Morarka: In view of the fact that Shri Mundhra's offer means Rs. 50 lakhs more than today's market price.....

Some Hon. Members: Rs. 10 lakhs.

Shri Morarka: No. Comparing the market price, it is Rs. 50 lakhs. May I know whether the LIC would be advised by the Government to pursue this offer and see if Shri Mundhra is still willing to pay that price?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir, for a variety reasons, the primary one being, as I got it from the LIC, that they do not expect Mr. Mundhra ever to fulfil that offer.

Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar

*889. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any board has been appointed to investigate into the rejection of Service Stores at the Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar; and

(b) if so, whether the Board has submitted its report?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the value of the stores rejected and how they were disposed of?

Shri Raghuramaiah: Certain rejections are always normal in the manufacture of this type of stores. But in this particular case, there have been unusual rejections. So, a board has been appointed which has gone into it and I am advised that it would not be in the public interest to disclose further details because it relates to certain military stores. Action is being taken. A court of enquiry has also been appointed to find out as to who is responsible and departmental action is contemplated.

Mr. Speaker: Even the total value of the unserviceable stores? They do not want the details.

Shri Raghuramaiah: I have not got the actual value at my disposal.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I do not want the nomenclature.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says he has not got it. Next question.

India Security Press, Nasik

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*892. { Shri Jadhav:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri B. K. Gaikwad:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of the India Security Press, Nasik went on strike in the months of December, 1957 to January, 1958;

(b) the number of man hours lost during the period of the strike; and

(c) the measures adopted to redress their main demands?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) There was

a partial strike from 14th December 1957, to 14th January, 1958, organised by one of the two workers' unions in the Press;

(b) The number of man hours lost, so far as workers who joined the strike are concerned, are, 8,07,447.

(c) Detailed discussions were held by Central Government officials with the representatives of the workers after the strike was called off. In the light of these discussions orders on a few matters are under issue while others are being examined.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know what the specific demands were and how far Government has met them?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: We have made a statement about the demands that the workers made.

Shri Jadhav: May I know when the final decision is likely to be taken?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I think very soon we will take a decision. They are being examined in the Ministries of Labour and of Finance.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Are Government aware that during the strike period, some of the non-technical people were allowed to handle the machines and these machines were damaged? If so what is amount of such damage?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: So far as we know, there has been no damage and I do not also think that it is a correct statement that non-technical people were asked to handle the machines because the daily attendance varied between 440 and 800. There were technical men available and the press was partially working.

Shri Nath Pai: The hon. Minister has stated that there were two unions and that the strike was led by one of the two. Would he be kind enough to say what percentage of the workers joined the strike and secondly—I do not want to get up a second time—whether the demand for 44 hours work has been accepted