

(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

or what has happened to that crucial demand?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As for the first part of the question, the strike was partial. A large majority of the workers were on strike. But it is a fact that attendance was between 400 and 800 all the days.

Shri Nath Pai: Out of how many?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I do not have the total figures.

Shri Nath Pai: I know, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then the hon. Member need not put the question.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The average attendance is 3,347 and the attendance in this period was between 582 and 900. As for the hours of work, that is also being examined. That is one of the important demands being examined. But I understand the hon. Member who just put the question gave a sort of an assurance that by this reduction in the hours of work, production will not be reduced. So far as this matter is concerned, we are examining it and we will take a decision very soon.

Shri Nath Pai: You should give me a minute, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: But the hon. Members must get up and speak.

Shri Nath Pai: Sir, a reference has been made to some assurance that I had made and it is likely to cause some misunderstanding. I had told during the strike negotiations that if the hours of work are reduced the present level of production should be maintained. What we meant was, if by working 44 hours the production goes down the workers would be ready to put additional hours of work for which the Government will pay them. It is very clear in the letter which we have written to the Labour Minister, and to that we stand by.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I say a word, Sir? Of course, I do not

challenge his statement. But that kind of assurance has no meaning at all. That kind of thing is not an assurance. It can always be done. My own impression was that the assurance is different; maybe, my impression was wrong. What Shri Nath Pai has said is an obvious thing. It does not make any difference. You work more and you are paid for that period. It can hardly be called an assurance.

Mineral Deposits

***892. Shri Abdul Lateef:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fairly large deposits of coal and other valuable minerals exist in the sub-mountainous regions near Bijoor;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any geological survey of this region with a view to assessing the prospects of exploitation of these minerals on large scale; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to do so in the near future?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). As no economic mineral deposit is reported in the area, the Geological Survey of India do not propose to undertake geological survey of this region in the near future.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Abdul Lateef.

Shri Ansar Harvani: May I know whether any team of geological survey was sent there to find out whether there are any deposits or not?

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Member's name "Abdul Lateef"? I called Shri Abdul Lateef. Shri Abdul Lateef may put his question now.

श्री अब्दुल लतीफ : ग्राम ने जो इन्क्वायरी की है उसका क्या नतीजा निकला है ?