

Dr. M. M. Das: It is expected that the institution will begin functioning by July, 1960.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether the Government has prepared the blueprints or plans of this Institute?

Dr. M. M. Das: When the land is taken possession of by our CPWD, a contour survey will be made. After the completion of the contour survey, detailed plans for buildings etc. will be drawn.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question. We do not progress at all. Yesterday we covered only ten questions.

Utilisation of Manufacturing Capacity in Ordnance Factories

*2271. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the total manufacturing capacity of the Ordnance Factories is being utilised;

(b) whether any scheme has been chalked out for utilisation of full capacity; and

(c) if so, the main features of this Scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

(b) and (c). Planned and sustained efforts are continuously being made to utilise to the maximum the capacity available in the Ordnance Factories by increasing output for Services items and undertaking progressive production of new items.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that this expansion programme will not only provide jobs for the surplus hands, if any, but will also provide jobs for additional hands? If so, to what extent?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): It is not possible

to give any undertaking to that effect. Our first business is to absorb surplus labour and provide for additional labour when necessary, that is, if the production demands additional labour we will take them.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this question of expansion and production was also discussed with the workers at the Industrial Council meeting at Calcutta? If so, were any suggestions given by the workers?

Shri Krishna Menon: Constant discussions go on between representative organisations of working people and the management and are referred to Government. There is no special significance in regard to this Calcutta meeting.

Seth Govind Das: Has any scheme been drawn so that the capacity of these factories may be used for preparing such instruments which can be used for civil purposes, specially for agricultural purposes?

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes, Sir. I have repeatedly informed the House that the Ordnance Factories shall only go into production on demand. They cannot produce just to exhibit them for sale. We have, therefore, produced demonstration models, which are available to the Government departments and others. If there is demand they can be produced, that is, the capacity for production is there.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: May I know if the manufacture of trucks and tractors is going on according to schedule?

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes, Sir. But I do not know whether this arises from this question. It is going on well within the schedule.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether those items which were shown at the various exhibitions are going to be produced in the Ordnance Factories in bulk or on order and, if so, whether orders for them have been received?

Shri Krishna Menon: There are negotiations going on in regard to certain items. I would not be able to give a categorical answer about them till they are finalised.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: May I know if the Ordnance Factories are taking up the production of cheap-priced cars?

Shri Krishna Menon: There is no such project in hand.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know whether the Estimates Committee have recommended for the setting up of an expert committee in order to see that the idle machines in the Ordnance Factories are utilised?

Shri Krishna Menon: The Report of the Estimates Committee was presented only yesterday. Mr. Speaker, you will not expect me to deal with it now or in this connection.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: May I know whether there is spare capacity in the Ordnance Factories for manufacturing spare parts according to the programme given by the different manufacturers in the automobile industry?

Shri Krishna Menon: There is spare capacity. But we have no orders to produce anything for anybody in large quantities. If the automobile industry gives us firm orders, and if it is economically worthwhile we shall think of taking it up.

Election Petitions

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*2272. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta.
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Bhakt Darshan.
Shri Bibhuti Mishra

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 726 on the 2nd December, 1958 and lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) the further progress made with regard to the disposal of election peti-

tions for the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies (State-wise);

(b) the number of election petitions still pending with the Election Tribunals, High Courts, and the Supreme Court (separately); and

(c) the total number of elections declared null and void upto the 31st March, 1959?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) to (c) A statement containing the required information as on the first May, 1959, is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 35]

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the statement I find that still about thirty-one election petitions are pending. While passing the Representation of the People Act it was said that all election petitions would be disposed of in the course of six months. May I know how even after two years of election so many election petitions are still pending?

Shri Hajarnavis: The Election Commission is constantly watching the progress and taking all possible measures to see that these are disposed of within the time that was mentioned by my hon. friend. But there are certain limitations. After all disposal of cases will depend upon the issues raised and upon the evidence to be recorded.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Ministry of Law has examined the reasons on account of which certain elections have been held to be null and void, their number is quite large. If so, are they going to revise the Representation of the People Act in such a manner that such a large number of elections is not held null and void?

Shri Hajarnavis: If elections are held null and void, it does not necessarily follow that the law is defective. It often is on account of something which the candidate did that it has been held null and void.