

discussion on the Report of the Pay Commission cannot be extended?

Mr. Speaker: No. We thought we could spare some time today, but the hon. Finance Minister does not find it convenient to be present. Therefore, the other alternative that I suggest is, whatever can be said on the floor of the House may be said tomorrow and the debate concluded.

Some Hon. Members: Tomorrow is Friday.

Mr. Speaker: I am fully aware that tomorrow is Friday. Whatever remains can be said on the General Discussion on the Budget and also on the Finance Bill. There are a number of opportunities for hon. Members to raise these points. They have got the discussion on the President's Address and various other matters.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: If the Finance Minister is not available, Sir, the Deputy Minister is present. We can start the discussion today and hon. Members who are ready can speak on it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going to extend the time now. Hon. Members persist in their own way of having it in this House—that is my conclusion. We referred the matter to the Business Advisory Committee. If there was some time available we wanted to have it today. Unfortunately, the Finance Minister does not find it convenient to be present today. Therefore, it will be taken up tomorrow. Whatever else remains can be sent by way of questions. If still anything more remains, hon. Members can go on referring to this matter on the President's Address, on the discussion on the Budget and also when the Finance Bill is taken up. Next Question.

Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organisation

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*71. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased

to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 93 on the 18th November, 1959 and state the further progress since made in the setting up of the Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organisation?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): In addition to the steps being taken for the development and cultivation of medicinal plants in Madras and West Bengal, further steps are being taken to develop on a commercial scale cultivation of six important medicinal plants in Kerala State in consultation with the Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organisation.

An Assistant Director has been appointed and is expected to join shortly.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether Himachal Pradesh will be included in the scheme so that medicinal plants are cultivated there also?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Ultimately, it is proposed to extend the scheme to any part of India which is suitable, but for the moment the work is being done in the three States that I have mentioned.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the sub-mountainous districts of Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur will also be utilised for the cultivation of medicinal plants?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have already replied to the question when I said that it will be gradually extended to all parts, that are suitable.

Shri Pangarkar: How long will it take to finalise the scheme?

Lease Form for Coal

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*72. { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question

No. 723 on the 9th December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether a decision has since been taken on the question of drafting a new standard lease form for coal;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) if no decision has yet been taken, the reasons for the delay?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question of providing for a new standard lease form for coal is still under consideration along with the model lease form for other minerals proposed to be incorporated in the new Mineral Concession Rules to be issued under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The comments of some State Governments on the proposed Mineral Concession Rules are still awaited. Hence the delay.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: This proposal of framing a standard lease form for coal was made by the Mineral Advisory Committee in 1958. May I know how many State Governments have sent in their reactions and suggestions from how many State Governments are still awaited?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: A model lease form was in the Mineral Concession Rules. There was no difficulty if the State Governments wanted to alter it. The Mineral Concession Rules themselves are now going to be amended. I have already said that most of the State Governments have sent in their recommendations. We are awaiting recommendations from some of the States and that is why there has been some delay.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I wanted to know from how many States suggestions have been received and from how many they are awaited?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I have already stated that most of the States except one or two States have sent in their suggestions. Within a very short time, within a month or two we shall be able to complete it.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: What are the implications of the changes that have been proposed by the Mineral Advisory Committee?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: It is too early to commit ourselves in that respect.

(Re. Q. 60)

Mr. Speaker: Before I go to the next question I have an announcement to make in respect of the discussion on the Report of the Pay Commission. I had a talk with the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. In view of the desire on the part of the Members to focus their attention, particularly, on the recommendations of the Pay Commission, as soon as the legislative work put down for today is over we will start the discussion on the Report of the Pay Commission. Hon. Members, whoever is ready, may start speaking on it. If they are not ready we will take up the other work.

Shri Bimal Ghose: That means the discussion on the Dandakaranya Development Authority will not come up today. Will it be taken up next week?

Mr. Speaker: It won't come up today. We may take it up next week if there is time.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): The No-day-yet-named Motion will not be taken up today.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, hon. Members will try to prepare from now and try to be ready.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Those who have not come prepared today can prepare for tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: This will go on till 2-30 tomorrow. It will be started today to give more time for the discussion, but let it not fall through

for want of speakers, in which case I will take up the discussion on Dandakaranya Development Authority and only 2½ hours will be available for the discussion on the Report of the Pay Commission.

**Explosion in Ordnance Factory,
Khamaria**

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{ Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Amjad Ali:
*73. } Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether an explosion took place in Ordnance Plant Blast at Khamaria on the 1st January, 1960 resulting in the death of one person; and

(b) if so, the full details of the explosion and the findings of the Enquiry Committee formed?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad): (a) I regret to say that such an incident occurred.

(b) On the 1st January 1960 at about 03.25 hours when break-down and boiling out of shells were in progress in building No. 200 at F 6 Section in the Ordnance Factory, Khamaria (Jubbulpore), one shell exploded. 9 persons were working in the building at the time of the explosion. As a result of the explosion, the roof of the building was completely blown up and one individual was killed and 4 others injured. A court of enquiry has been held whose findings are awaited.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know under what circumstances that explosion occurred? Pending the submission of the report of the court of enquiry, may I also know whether the explosion was due to any negligence or it was merely accidental?

Shri Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad: No such information is available at the

moment; we are awaiting the report of the court of enquiry.

Shri Raghunath Singh: As the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has no information, may I know whether any departmental enquiry was held?

Shri Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad: This court of enquiry is a departmental enquiry.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether this accident took place in the danger building, whether all the safety measures likely to be taken in the danger building were provided and even after that this accident took place?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): These are all matters which will have to be gone into by the court of enquiry and reported upon.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since this report will take a long time and payment of full compensation will take a long time, may I know whether any ad hoc compensation has been given to Mrs. Kamble, the wife of the worker who died because the worker has no son?

Shri Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad: Yes, Sir. Rs. 3,000 has already been sanctioned as compensation.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether the loss due to the explosion has been assessed?

Shri Raghuramaiah: The only information we have is that one person died and four were injured. About other matters, it would be presumptuous to say anything without receiving the report of the Court of enquiry?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We are told that we will get the information about this explosion only when the court of enquiry submits its report. But when an hon. Member asked about the extent of damage done to the plant, to say that that information will also be known when the court of enquiry submits its report is something which is quite astonishing.